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Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

5005th meeting

Friday, 16 July 2004, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Motoc	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Valle
	Chile	Mr. Muñoz
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Germany	Mr. Much
	Pakistan	Mr. Mahmood
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United States of America	Mr. Siv

Agenda

Security Council mission

Report of the Security Council mission to West Africa from 20 to 29 June 2004 (S/2004/525)

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04-42851 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council mission

Report of the Security Council mission to West Africa from 20 to 29 June 2004 (S/2004/525)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Japan, Liberia, the Netherlands, Nigeria and Sierra Leone in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire), Nana Effah-Apenteng (Ghana), Mr. Sow (Guinea), Mr. Haraguchi (Japan), Mr. Kawah (Liberia), Mr. Van den Berg (Netherlands), Mr. Adekanye (Nigeria) and Mr. Pemagbi (Sierra Leone) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Dumisani Kumalo, Chairman of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau.

It is so decided.

I invite the Chairman of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau to take the seat reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2004/525, which contains the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa, 20-29 June 2004.

I should now like to give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, in his capacity as head of the Security Council mission to West Africa.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom): My colleagues have got the written report. I think they have seen the record of the oral report which was made to the Council immediately after the visit, so I will not resume either of those. I shall take them as a basis which everybody has before them.

May I begin by thanking the countries of the region — seven countries in eight days — for all the help they gave to the mission, to the United Nations teams on the ground in all their manifestations, to the colleagues who were on the mission and to the Secretariat, which made it all possible.

In terms of the visit, our intention was very clear: to underline the Security Council's continuing interest in and support and concern for developments in West Africa and, more generally, that of the United Nations as a whole. We also wished to set our approach in a regional context, being very clear that there are many issues which affect most of the countries in one way or another and that there is a natural knock-on effect as one tackles an issue in one country but it then passes across to have a consequence for a neighbour. There is thus an absolutely imperative need to take account of the regional dimension, and we tried to do that. That was why the discussions with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and our support for ECOWAS were actually so important.

As recommended, and as indeed the non-governmental organizations had suggested earlier, we took up lots of horizontal issues — such as child soldiers, peace-building, governance, small arms proliferation and so on — on a regular basis, as opportunity arose. They may not be specifically referred to in the report, but they were part of the context at all stages.

We, of course, were impressed by the United Nations effort on the ground. Anyone who cynically wonders whether this Organization is relevant ought to go on the same visit that we went on. In their different

manifestations, the Members of the United Nations family are doing a great job, and doing it with sensitivity, we thought, and in cooperation with local Governments, working primarily as enablers to permit Governments to better fulfil that which they wish to do and to encourage a durable independence of action by Governments. The international community should have a clear strategy for reducing dependency and actually helping countries to fulfil their very real potential.

The conclusions which we came to, I think, are straightforwardly set out in the report, but they do include a clear commitment that the United Nations and the Security Council have to stay the course in terms of their support for positive developments in West Africa and of the need to tackle those issues regionally, to give our support to the good things and to try and help Governments to tackle those issues which are the problems. That includes managing post-conflict situations, which are particularly difficult in the sense of building peace and durable institutions, creating the rule of law and having conditions of economic development which both harness the resources of countries and offer a prospect, especially to young people, of meeting expectations.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are classically important throughout the region; and if disarmament and demobilization are difficult, reintegration is much more so, it seems to me. Reintegration must provide opportunities; otherwise, idle hands make mischief. It is a simple lesson. There is also a quite basic need to bring policies to bear which will actually avoid a resurgence of conflict.

To do all that, we need coherent approaches by the international community, by the international financial institutions, by all the organs of the United Nations and by donors. We must do so across the spectrum of intervention — and by "intervention" what I am talking about are the policies one needs to discourage and prevent conflict right through to what one does post-conflict to promote the rule of law, economic development and so on. That spectrum of activity, by the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and all the others involved, should be undertaken in a fashion which meets the aims of countries and provides the sort of future which West Africa deserves and which its assets, its people and its resources should permit it to actually achieve.

That is a quick summary, a snapshot — and by definition it can only be a snapshot. I think my regret, which I believe is the same as that of most other members of the mission, is that we went and had an awful number of meetings, but we did not see as much in-country of activities as we would have liked. But that was the schedule.

The President: I now invite the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to take a seat at the Council and table to make his statement.

Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): My delegation congratulates you, Sir, on your accession to the presidency of the Council and commends your initiative of holding this public debate, in particular with the participation of the countries that were visited. We convey our deep gratitude to all members of the Council for their concern for West Africa in particular and, in general, for their devotion to restoring peace, political stability and the optimal conditions for integrated, united and sustainable development in that ravaged part of the world.

We would ask you, Sir, to convey our gratitude to all the members of the recent Security Council mission to West Africa, and in particular to Sir Emyr Jones Parry, who led the mission very successfully, as is reflected in the high quality of the report before the Council.

My delegation commends the ongoing concern and sustained endeavours of the Council to promote the close link between security and development in West Africa, good governance, respect for international humanitarian law and human rights, and an active, coherent and multilateral approach to conflict prevention.

We therefore welcome the relevant and comprehensive observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa (S/2004/525). In particular, we welcome its call for a progress report by the end of this year on the implementation of the recommendations set out in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/200) on ways to combat subregional and cross-border problems in West Africa. We have no doubt that the report will be regularly updated, reflecting what has already been described as the sustained nature of that active approach to conflict prevention in West Africa, and in order to ensure the good conduct of the States that

produce and supply weapons, ammunition and explosives.

With respect to my country, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, I am pleased to note that since the visit of the Security Council mission, as the President of the Republic had undertaken, the status-of-forces agreement has been signed and national regulatory procedures for establishing and operating radio and television stations are being monitored by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Moreover, as the President of the Republic stated, Parliament has resumed consideration of the draft laws submitted by the Government. It is understood that the work of Parliament will continue, in special session if necessary, until the final text adopted by the Council of Ministers is considered. We will then have to resolve the question of those bills that the Government has not been able to consider because the ministers concerned have not submitted them to the Government. That is the case with the law on the media and the decree on war victims. Of course, the Parliament will consider those texts in the spirit of the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra II Agreements, but in full sovereignty and according to its own rules of procedure, which respect democratic principles.

My delegation welcomes with relief the fact that the international Commission of Inquiry for Côte d'Ivoire on human rights violations since September 2002 has been established and will soon be operational. However, we suggest that, to take advantage of the period of the inquiry, the Commission should be authorized to investigate crimes committed beyond the date of 24 January 2003, the current end date of its reporting panel, which is the date of the signing of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. In fact, human rights violations were perpetrated in certain parts of the country after that date: at Guézon and Bléninminhouin on 24 and 26 June 2003, at Kahen on 11 July and 9 December 2003, at Zou and Pinhoun on 21 November 2003, at Brodoumé on 3 and 4 March 2004, at Abidjan from 25 to 27 March 2004, at Ity and Gohitafla on 7 and 8 June 2004, and at Bouaké, Boundiali, Korhogo and Séguéla during the week of 21 June 2004, at the very time when the Security Council mission was in Abidjan. In fact, it would be difficult to understand how the Commission of Inquiry could turn a blind eye to violations committed in same conflict, in the same territory, because they fall outside its mandate.

The true perpetrators of those violations of the fundamental rights of Ivorians and residents in Côte d'Ivoire must be identified so that justice can be done for the people, the nation and the State of Côte d'Ivoire, with equity and on the basis of established proof, instead of on the basis of the assumptions and the conjectures made by those previously responsible for inquiry, who spent less than a dozen days in Côte d'Ivoire despite the gravity of their mission.

I wish to conclude by commenting on a key passage of the mission report under consideration. Paragraph 18 of the report refers to the commitment of the Ivorian authorities to adopt all texts envisaged by the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement by 28 July 2004:

> "[President Gbagbo] indicated, however, that, as provided for by the constitution of Côte d'Ivoire, the submission of the draft law on article 35 on the question of eligibility would take place only after the national territory had been reunified, meaning after completion of the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration programme and the restoration of State authority throughout the country. The mission challenged this assertion and, indeed, on many occasions during its visit, expressed its regret at the lack of trust between the parties, which had led them to put preconditions on the implementation of key elements of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement." (*S/2004/525, para. 18*)

That challenge to the commitment of the President of the Republic to respect the Constitution is all the more surprising as it comes from a mission of the Security Council, which has always rightly urged respect for legality and the rule of law. The necessity of not holding elections so long as the territorial integrity of the country is in jeopardy is not a precondition but a constitutional clause accepted by the people of Côte d'Ivoire. Above and beyond respect for constitutional legality, how, from a practical standpoint, can one hold a referendum and carry out a campaign in complete freedom when former rebel groups are still taking up arms and preventing free access to the northern half of the country?

In that regard, my delegation welcomes the recent appeal for the respect of constitutions made by the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, before the African Union.

My delegation once again thanks the Security Council, the Secretariat and the international community for their steady support for the restoration of peace, security and stability and the conditions needed for sustainable development in West Africa, which is considered a homogeneous zone for integrated and united development.

The President: I thank the representative of Côte d'Ivoire for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Ghana. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Effah-Apenteng (Ghana): At the outset, Sir, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. It is the hope of the States members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) that you will continue to bring the wealth of your experience and knowledge to bear in steering the affairs of the Council during your tenure.

The recent Security Council mission to seven countries in West Africa is yet another manifestation of the support and concern of the Council for matters concerning our region. It lends further credence to the view that the concerted and dedicated efforts of the international community and the United Nations in peace operations and the provision of development assistance to the region represent a viable prospect of West Africa breaking out of the cycle of conflict and poverty in order to achieve sustainable peace and development.

ECOWAS is gratified to note the Council mission's observation relating to the general significant progress in peace-building efforts in the region.

The sustained post-conflict peace-consolidation process in Sierra Leone, in spite of continuing challenges, is very much welcome. Although the situation in Sierra Leone has improved considerably, ECOWAS is still convinced of the need to keep a residual United Nations force in the country in order to consolidate peace, enhance security and pursue ongoing capacity-building programmes. After renewed calls by ECOWAS heads of State or Government and the recommendations of the twenty-first report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) (S/2004/228), the Security Council, in resolution 1537 (2004), extended the mandate of UNAMSIL until 30 September 2004. It also decided to keep a residual force in the country with effect from 1 January 2005, for an initial period of six months. The issue of the continued retention of a residual force to consolidate gains merits the appropriate attention. We are of the opinion that the United Nations mandate should not come to an end until all outstanding issues, including the Special Court, have been thrashed out.

As is generally known, youth unemployment is especially grave in countries coming out of conflict. Sierra Leone, therefore, needs the assistance of the international community to enable it to provide jobs for the young people who have completed the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme. The absence of jobs for such young people seriously jeopardizes efforts to consolidate peace in the country.

We further concur with the mission's recommendation that donors, particularly those who are yet to do so, should make the necessary effort to contribute to support the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Such continued support from the international community is needed to enable the State authority of that sister country to effectively assume full responsibility for national security by contributing to the restructuring and strengthening of the security sector, even as the UNAMSIL adjustment, drawdown and withdrawal plan takes its course.

On Guinea-Bissau, due notice has been taken of the mission's recommendation that ECOWAS should include that country in its regional policies of containing the proliferation of small arms and other security threats in the region. In this regard, it should be noted that heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, at a meeting held in Abuja in March 2003, adopted a declaration on a regional approach to peace and security in which they reaffirmed their commitment to abide by the ECOWAS Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons. They also, inter alia, adopted a code of conduct for the implementation of the Moratorium and the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security. To date, the implementation of the ECOWAS Moratorium has made considerable advance, even though a lot still remains to be accomplished.

With presidential elections scheduled to take place in a year's time, the international community should continue its support for efforts to promote democratic rule in Guinea-Bissau. Also, the country continues to experience serious problems of payment arrears and faces the challenge of economic recovery. The United Nations system, development partners and the donor community should respond generously to address the fragile situation in Guinea-Bissau by providing requisite support to strengthen its national institutions and address broad and inclusive political and socio-economic needs.

We therefore wish to add our voice to the call on the International Monetary Fund to consider the resumption of a programme for Guinea-Bissau. We also wish to appeal to the Security Council to join forces with the Economic and Social Council in calling on donors to participate in the round table being organized by the United Nations Development Programme, tentatively scheduled for November 2004.

The progress made by Liberia since the National Transitional Government took office and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) deployed in October 2003 elicits our commendation. Continued and deepened support by the international community to help consolidate the burgeoning gains and effectively meet the challenges of reconstruction and peace-building cannot be overstressed. It is with concern that ECOWAS notes that rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts appear to have taken a back bench. For example, reports reaching us indicate that the United Nations brought the number of days devoted to rehabilitation and reintegration to five days instead of three weeks, in spite of the help required with the rehabilitation of drug addicts, criminals, etc. Relatedly, as elections are fast approaching, there are still problems with the repatriation of refugees, and, as things stand, potentially about 300,000 refugees will be disenfranchised.

We are informed that so far only a small amount out of the $520 million pledged for Liberia last February has been realized. ECOWAS cannot over-emphasize the imperative need for the international community to redeem the pledges made.

The concerns raised in the Security Council mission report over the observed stalemate in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire should not go without comment. The mission's recommendation seeking appropriate compliance by the parties to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement converges with ECOWAS's position on the issue. The substantial contribution of ECOWAS in maintaining peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire and the crucial role played by the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) in support of the Ivorian peace process, through efforts aimed at building confidence among the contending parties and creating conditions conducive to the return of normalcy in Côte d'Ivoire, have continued unabated.

In this connection, it should be pointed out that there have been some positive developments since the visit of the Security Council mission. As part of mediation efforts deployed by the leaders of ECOWAS, a meeting at the highest level on Côte d'Ivoire, involving the United Nations Secretary-General and several African heads of State, mainly from West Africa, was held in Addis Ababa on 6 July 2004, in the margins of the recent third ordinary session of the African Union. It aimed at building upon previous efforts, the most recent of which was the ECOWAS mini-summit held in Abuja on 20 June 2004, to resume the political dialogue in Côte d'Ivoire and the activities of the Government of National Reconciliation. Among other things, the participants decided that a high-level meeting of all Ivorian political forces, including President Laurent Gbagbo and Prime Minister Seydou Diarra, will be convened in Accra on 29 July 2004 in order to consolidate consensus over all the essential issues facing the peace process.

To ensure the success of the envisaged meeting, the following confidence-building measures were to be undertaken immediately. President Gbagbo would meet with the leaders of all Ivorian political forces to facilitate the resolution of outstanding matters. Legislative texts envisaged under the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement would be enacted before the end of July. If necessary, the President of the Republic should convene an extraordinary session of the parliament. The Joint Commissions between Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso on one hand, and Côte d'Ivoire and Mali on the other hand, would be activated. The heads of State of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali will hold a tripartite meeting to prepare the ground for a successful Accra summit on 29 July 2004.

ECOWAS and ONUCI will undertake the necessary follow-up in preparation for the upcoming Accra summit. In this connection, I wish to assure the Council that arrangements are well in hand to hold the

summit, and participation is expected to be at the highest level.

It may be further noted, by way of example, that, prior to the just-mentioned mediation effort, in June 2004 the ECOWAS Defence and Security Commission had approved the establishment of a standby unit of 6,500 highly trained and well-equipped soldiers that could be deployed immediately in response to any crisis or threat to peace and security in West Africa. The unit will include a rapid reaction component of 1,500 soldiers to be known as the ECOWAS Task Force. It is expected that the rapid reaction force will be boosted by a further 3,500 troops, forming a brigade, while the remaining 1,500 would constitute the reserve force.

Against this backdrop of cautious optimism, justified concern and constructive action aimed at achieving redress of the problems bedevilling the region, we share the Council's sentiments on achieving a coherent strategy for attaining transborder solutions to related issues spanning the whole spectrum of peace operations from conflict prevention to peace-building.

ECOWAS is committed to meeting the challenges by ensuring, among other things, full operationalization of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security; the promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights in all member States; the organization of democratic elections and the promotion of economic growth and sustainable development.

To conclude, I wish to restate the gratitude of ECOWAS to the Security Council for its continued efforts at seeking enduring solutions to the myriad of problems that have been visited on the West Africa region and have further undermined peace, security and development for the past one and a half decades. ECOWAS stands united with the Security Council in the unrelenting quest for sustainable peace and development in the region.

The President: I thank the representative of Ghana for the most kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Guinea. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Sow (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): I should like at the outset to express to you, Mr. President, Guinea's congratulations on your country's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July 2004 and on the excellent way in which you are guiding our debates. My thanks go also to your predecessor, Mr. Lauro Baja of the Philippines, for the quality of his presidency.

This public meeting, devoted to considering the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa (S/2004/525), offers me the pleasant opportunity to share with members the appreciation of the Government of Guinea, and particularly of the President of the Republic, for the fruitful working visit to Conakry on 28 June. The intensive exchange of views that took place that day on diverse and complex issues undoubtedly attests to both the Guinean Government's determination to work tirelessly for the restoration of peace and security in the Mano River Basin and to the Security Council's unflagging interest in seeing Guinea consolidate its peaceful and stabilizing influence in its region and in the West African subregion.

The holding of the second Mano River Union Summit at Conakry on 20 May 2004 is also a part of that context. The final communiqué, which was sent to the Security Council for its information, expressed the resolve of member States to carry out their respective obligations under the mechanisms established by the Union. With the Presidents of Mali and of Côte d'Ivoire as observers, the Mano River Union's leaders stressed their unshakeable determination to work together with their counterparts to make the subregion a zone of peace and stability, conducive to close cooperation for lasting and integrated development.

We must recognize that West Africa is gradually emerging from a long, painful period of bloody conflicts, thanks to the joint actions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations system and African and international partners and, above all, to the political commitment of various national actors.

In Sierra Leone, peace has become a reality and is being gradually consolidated. The significant contributions of friendly countries — including the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland — to that peace process remains etched in our collective memory. The preservation of those gains depends on the real capacity of security forces to smoothly assume the duties of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), but also on the

creation of new pro-growth economic activities likely to curb the unemployment of young people in particular and to integrate ex-combatants into a new dynamic that will prevent a resurgence of crises and conflicts.

Liberia — not without difficulty, but with real grounds for hope — has been pursuing the path of reconciliation and lasting peace since 14 August 2003. We hope that no effort will be spared to complete the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, to re-establish civil authority throughout the country and to mobilize the financial resources necessary for its reconstruction. In our view, President Gyude Bryant's attachment to good governance and democracy, as noted in the report, is an important factor in peace-building in Liberia and in the subregion. The donor community must take that into account in order to enable the country's leaders to attain the agreed objectives.

In Guinea-Bissau, while we welcome the remarkable progress towards democracy and good governance made since September 2003, we note that many challenges remain on the path towards stability. The immediate provision of financial resources and of technological and institutional capacities will enable us to meet those challenges and to implement the priorities set forth.

Although our subregion is witnessing a general positive trend, the specific situation in Côte d'Ivoire remains a factor of concern. Guinea remains convinced that African wisdom will prevail to enable all the parties concerned to overcome difficulties and to place the peace and reconciliation process on a solid foundation. The subregion's stability depends on that. The forthcoming resumption in Accra of the dialogue between the parties to the Marcoussis Agreement, under the aegis of ECOWAS and of well-known facilitators, promises new perspectives. That is a healthy step in the right direction. Guinea, for its part, advocates preserving the unity, integrity and full sovereignty of Côte d'Ivoire, a neighbouring and brotherly country to which we are linked by many bonds.

Moreover, my delegation would like to stress that peace-building in West Africa depends, above all, on good governance and the eradication of transborder problems such as the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the movement of mercenaries and uncontrolled armed groups. The decision of ECOWAS to transform its moratorium on the import and export of weapons into a regional convention will make our joint action more effective. Here, the international community's assistance is indispensable.

Experience teaches us that the quality of Security Council missions hinges on the quality of preparation, on the time allotted for their completion and, above all, on the approaches used in discussions with the various interlocutors. During the preparation and carrying out of these missions, the Security Council tries to include on its agenda field visits, which require time. We believe that such field visits — more than periodic reports — are new and useful sources of information. They enable Council members to grasp realities that no report could describe.

My delegation also believes that in certain cases the time allotted for missions is so brief that it often does not allow for an in-depth exploration of all related issues whose consideration could be decisive in assessing the situation. It is essential that a Security Council mission not send a message that is incomplete or that is not based fully on contacts with the many social actors and institutional partners on the ground. Such an approach — which my delegation encourages — seeks to enrich the results achieved, having as its sole objective the commitment of the parties — or the strengthening of their resolve — to restore peace.

In conclusion, my country hopes that the relevant recommendations of the Council and of the Secretary-General will be swiftly followed up — particularly with regard to the regional scope of decisions and projects and the reconstruction of the Guinea-Forestière area, which continues to host many refugees and displaced persons — within the framework of revitalizing and relaunching the Mano River Union.

In the hope that the Security Council will take our concerns into account, I would like to express once again our appreciation for the results already achieved by its mission under the wise and skilful leadership of Ambassador Sir Emyr Jones Parry. My country, the Republic of Guinea, is fully prepared to strengthen its cooperation with all States of the subregion and with the United Nations to build a better political and economic space that promotes the flourishing of African peoples.

The President: I thank the representative of Guinea for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Liberia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kawah (Liberia): Kindly accept my congratulations, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for extending an invitation to me to make a few comments on the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa, contained in document S/2004/525. Let me also express Liberia's appreciation to those Council members who made the trip and to those members of the Secretariat who accompanied the mission. Special recognition is given to Ambassador Jones Parry of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who headed the mission.

I have read the report of the mission and find it wholesome in its general observations and relevant when it comes to the Liberian situation. The mission's visit to the West African region can only expand the Council's view and understanding of the complex problems confronting the subregion, some of which are reflected in the report before the Council.

The Council, over the past year, has taken decisions and actions which, for the Liberian people, have created a new sense of realism, renewal and reform. The events of the past several months have led to renewed hope for Liberia and to a new chance for a bright future. The international community has committed significant resources to put Liberia back on the road to recovery after more than two decades of strife and open conflict. According to the report, the new Transitional Government has pledged to break with the habits of the past and to make a new effort to move as quickly as possible into a stable and growth-oriented relationship with the international community.

Let me observe, however, that the efforts of the Security Council will come to fruition only if Liberians are empowered to manage their own affairs. Understandably, Liberia remains a hybrid State in the international arena. The Transitional Government does not have complete control over its territory and is unable to guarantee an acceptable level of security for its people. In those areas there is a partnership between the United Nations and the Liberian Government.

That partnership must be nurtured so that, within a specified time period, the responsibility of governance will devolve to the Liberian people. In this, the question of lifting United Nations sanctions on timber and diamonds is urgent, especially if Liberia is to generate the resources necessary for the country's reconstruction. The requirements for doing this are to be found in Security Council resolution 1521 (2003). To meet those requirements, the assistance of the international community and the understanding of the Security Council are urgent and critical. Meeting the high standards in the management of public funds will not materialize if there are no funds to manage. We are prepared to work with the Council to reach this objective, but we cannot do it alone. Here, we join in the appeal to the donor community to deliver on the pledges made at the United Nations on 5 February 2004. The appeal in paragraph 28 of the report is realistic and urgent.

Within the West African region, and especially within the Mano River Union, we have suffered tremendously. We destroyed the architecture of our heritage and had nothing with which to replace it. We had been one people living in harmony. We have destroyed the simple trust which existed. It is my ardent hope that we have learned something about ourselves and that we are prepared to change, to coexist and to build. We must now, with the Council's help, summon the resolve to elevate our performance to a plateau of functional excellence, for, as the writer Kahlil Gibran said, "when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb".

The President: I thank the representative of Liberia for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Nigeria. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Adekanye (Nigeria): I wish on behalf of the delegation of Nigeria to convey our congratulations to you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. May I also express our appreciation to the Permanent Representative of the Philippines for the efficient manner in which he conducted the proceedings of the Security Council last month.

The delegation of Nigeria has read the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa, 20 to 29 June 2004, contained in document S/2004/525. The

visit was indicative of the Security Council's continuing engagement with the situation in West Africa, as well as a demonstration of the Council's commitment to regular consultation with Member States in the search for durable peace, security and stability in the conflict areas of the subregion. It is thus noteworthy that among the objectives of the mission was to identify additional measures for the promotion of sustainable peace, security and development, and for cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the design and implementation of a subregional conflict prevention strategy, including how to tackle cross-border problems.

Central to the realization of those objectives is the return of trust and confidence among and between parties to conflict in affected countries. In that process, the value of cooperation between United Nations missions and bodies in the subregion on the one hand and ECOWAS on the other cannot be overemphasized. The mission, in our estimation, not only underscored this but also recognized the increasingly active and valuable role being played by ECOWAS in mobilizing countries in the region to undertake peacekeeping missions. In that regard, we wish to underscore the proactive role of the ECOWAS Chairman, President John Kufuor of Ghana, President Obasanjo of Nigeria and President Eyadema of Togo in the search for a solution to the Ivorian political impasse.

The wide-ranging discussions the mission held with West African leaders, including President Obasanjo, provided insights and identified challenges that the international community faces in the subregion.

In Côte d'Ivoire, there is a need to support the process of rapprochement and reconciliation. We note that the leadership of that country is committed to taking necessary measures that would restore confidence and trust and would prevent relapse into conflict. Those measures include the reconstitution of the Government of National Reconciliation: a detailed time-bound schedule for implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement; legislation by the National Assembly on fundamental political reforms, as envisaged in the Agreement; and, of course, the holding of a regular high-level dialogue, without preconditions, among the country's parties. We are confident that the Ivorian parties will ensure that the benchmarks given the mission are indeed met.

Meanwhile, we commend the positive role being played by the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire in the preparations for general elections by October 2005. We enjoin the Ivorian parties to accord the Mission the requisite support and cooperation.

On Liberia, Nigeria welcomes the progress made since the National Transitional Government took office. Given the enormous challenges of post-conflict peace-building in that country, we join the Council in calling on those countries that have not done so to redeem the pledges they made at the international donors conference held last February. We also call on the Security Council to consider the lifting of its embargo on the trade in timber and other natural resources, so that the Liberian Government can have the necessary funds for the rehabilitation of its infrastructure. This is consistent with the decision of the recently concluded Third Summit of the African Union, which was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

On Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria is pleased to observe the progress made by the Government of that country in the political transition process. We commend the positive role being played by the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau, as well as by the Group of Friends of Guinea-Bissau. Those efforts complement the role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in support of a return to political normalcy in the country. We support the mission's recommendation that the Bretton Woods institutions and the international donor community should remain actively engaged by providing the necessary financial resources and technical assistance to the country.

On Sierra Leone, Nigeria expresses its condolences to the United Nations and to the Governments of concerned countries, as well as our heartfelt sympathy to the families of the peacekeepers who perished in the recent helicopter crash in Sierra Leone. We salute the courage and dedication of those individuals, who paid the ultimate price in the service of humanity.

While we welcome the progress achieved by the Sierra Leone Government, especially in the area of strengthening its military and police capacities, we believe that the security situation on the ground remains fragile. There is therefore a need for the cautious drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, in order to ensure sustainable peace.

Finally, Nigeria notes with satisfaction the mission's support for the ECOWAS Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa. As the Council is no doubt aware, the Moratorium will soon be strengthened through a convention that will be mandatory on all signatories. That reflects the commitment of countries in our subregion to the fight against the scourge of these weapons. We shall continue to count on the Council and the international community in those efforts.

The President: I thank the representative of Nigeria for the words of appreciation he addressed to me.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Sierra Leone. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Pemagbi (Sierra Leone): Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the responsibilities of running the Security Council this month.

We would like to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Ghana on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The delegation of the Republic of Sierra Leone wishes to express its profound appreciation to the Council for its assessment mission to West Africa, whose report (S/2004/525) we are here to discuss. The mission is yet another concrete indication of the Council's commitment to resolving the conflicts in the West African subregion. We salute members of the mission for the visit and the impressively prepared report. My delegation is convinced that sustainable peace and political stability can return to that crisis-ridden region if the recommendations of the mission are implemented. We therefore urge all stakeholders, including the United Nations and other members of the international community, the Economic Community of West African States and the Governments and other parties to the conflicts in the countries in the region to cooperate in the implementation of the recommendations.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to remind the Council about two depressing facts concerning the conflicts in the West African subregion, careful consideration of which may provide added momentum to the long and tedious search for peace.

First, for about 15 years now, most of the time and resources of ECOWAS have been concentrated on conflicts in the region, almost completely diverting the attention of the organization from its original objective of regional economic integration and development. Thus, those conflicts have retarded national as well as regional development initiatives.

The second fact I wish to recall is that it has not been easy even for countries in the region that have not been in conflict to pursue the goals of international development declarations, such as the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Do we sincerely expect those already poor countries that are in conflict, or transiting from conflict to peace, where even the basic social services are a luxury, to fulfil their obligations under such declarations? Special assistance to those countries to help them to catch up is the only answer to their predicament.

I have reminded the Council about those two intimately related issues to underscore the need to take a fresh and hard look at peacekeeping operations and peace processes, as suggested in the report. What my delegation is advocating is a strategy of an integrated approach to the peace effort that not only conducts disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and then disappears from the conflict scene, but, as part of the peace process, also addresses the issues of the conflict and ensures a smooth transition from hostility to sustainable peace and development.

As we all know, disarmament and demobilization can be a simple and straightforward exercise if the parties to a conflict are committed to resolving it. Reintegration is a much more complicated, expensive and multifaceted process, around which the issue of post-conflict transition revolves. In Sierra Leone, for example, the two elections held in 2002 — parliamentary and presidential — and the local-government elections held in May this year, constituted major progress in the political reintegration process. But by far the most critical aspect of reintegration, which can be called survival or economic reintegration, is yet to be fully accomplished because of the poor state of the economy. Education, skills and employment opportunities are the tools for that aspect of reintegration. Ignoring them can amount to leaving a

vacuum in the peace process that can stimulate regeneration of the conflict. We therefore strongly support the mission's view that the link between security and sustainable development should be strengthened.

This delegation particularly welcomes the recommendation on a regional approach to the problem and on the need for cooperation and positive relations between neighbouring States. We in Sierra Leone, for example, drawing from the experience of our conflict, will never feel safe and secure until our neighbours have peace and no one undermines the stability of the others. We believe, however, that the peace effort in the region should ensure that armed conflict does not spread further. We realize that this is not easy, but avoiding it will not in the long term be in the best interest of peace, stability and development in the region.

The report contains a good account of the major concerns of Sierra Leone, including support for strengthening the capability of the security machinery, the Special Court, reviving the shattered economy to resume active development and to provide employment opportunities, and rebuilding institutions to reinforce Government authority — all as part of the post-conflict recovery process. My delegation merely wishes to re-echo our President's appeal for support for the national recovery programme, which in fact has provision for addressing many of the issues raised in the report. These are the foundation and building blocks of durable peace, stability and development. They are the tools that destroy the gear that can reverse our drive through transition. We need the Council's support for these tools.

Let me remind members of the Council that the experience of Sierra Leone has been extraordinary, as has been their response. But the fascinating story of their positive response will be incomplete without sustained support for the transition process. I therefore repeat my President's appeal to the Security Council and the international community to remain an active part of this critical post-conflict transition phase.

The President: I thank the representative of Sierra Leone for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker on my list is the representative of South Africa. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa): First, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of July. I wish to also thank you for inviting the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau to participate in this meeting to discuss the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa.

Without the support of the Security Council, and in particular of Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry of the United Kingdom, who led the Security Council mission, our participation in the mission might not have been possible. We thank Ambassador Jones Parry for making it possible. We are also thankful to this Council for its support and its growing and meaningful working relationship with the Economic and Social Council.

There have been very significant and meaningful changes that have taken place in Guinea-Bissau. On 28 March 2004, Guinea-Bissau held legislative elections that were deemed free, fair and transparent by a team of international observers. Nonetheless, the optimism we have about the future of Guinea-Bissau is not based simply on the holding of a successful election. Our joint visit confirmed that there is reason to describe what is happening in Guinea-Bissau as a breakthrough.

The newly elected National Popular Assembly is committed to completing the review of the Constitution during its current session that will lay the groundwork for the holding of presidential elections in 2005. The new Government is also intent on strengthening its partnership and dialogue with its international development partners, in the spirit of the partnership approach endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in 2003. This approach should help restore international economic and financial confidence in Guinea-Bissau.

During our visit, we saw a Government that is committed to improved governance and is in the process of strengthening mechanisms that will deepen democracy in that country. The Council may recall frequent changes and dismissals of senior officials, including in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, that contributed to the institutional instability of the past and threatened peace and security in Guinea-Bissau. The new Government, however, has begun practising greater transparency and accountability in public administration by selecting senior public officials

based on merit and technical experience. This approach by the Government is already contributing to overall stability.

A Treasury Committee that includes the United Nations Development Programme scrutinizes both revenue collection and expenditures within the Ministry of Economy and Finance. As a result, there are already visible gains in revenue collection that have made it possible for the Government to be able, after only 45 days in office, to pay three months of salaries to its public servants from its own resources.

However, Guinea-Bissau remains in need of official development assistance to rebuild its social and economic infrastructure and private investment to relaunch the economy. Our Group is convinced that a modest investment in the short- to medium-term in the economy would help Guinea-Bissau to consolidate the progress that the Government has made so far.

The Group is very encouraged by the positive approach that the Bretton Woods institutions continue to pursue in regard to Guinea-Bissau. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has played a critical and constructive role in supporting the Government of Guinea-Bissau by providing technical assistance in many areas, including in revenue administration, customs, expenditure management and real and fiscal sector statistics. The IMF Executive Board is expected to meet in mid-September 2004 to consider the report of article IV consultations with the Government of Guinea-Bissau. It is expected that the Board may consider a programme that could lead to the resumption of the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility programme for Guinea-Bissau. Our Group would hope that the Security Council will urge the IMF to positively consider the resumption of a programme for Guinea-Bissau.

The World Bank's new medium-term strategy, expected to begin in September 2004, is also a welcome sign of the Bank's confidence in Guinea-Bissau. The new programme will support the restoration of macroeconomic stability and provide support for social services, particularly health and education, the reinforcement of governance and the rehabilitation of economic infrastructure, namely, in water, energy, transport and telecommunications. Both the Fund and the Bank, however, have made it clear that the implementation of their own programmes will not be successful without the strong and active engagement of the donor community.

In conclusion, in the area of peace and security, the Group is concerned about the restructuring of the security sector. Working and living conditions for the military are extremely poor. In the context of the recent history of Guinea-Bissau, the transformation of the armed forces into a professional force is absolutely critical to minimizing the risk of the country's relapsing into conflict. This is important because the security situation in Guinea-Bissau remains fragile in a subregion that is itself fragile.

The joint mission has concluded that it is essential to continue to monitor and support political, economic and social developments in Guinea-Bissau. Indeed, our Group concurs and believes that sustained support is absolutely essential to ensuring that Guinea-Bissau does not lose the recent gains achieved.

The President: I thank the representative of South Africa for the words of appreciation he addressed to my delegation.

The next speaker on my list is the representative of the Netherlands. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. van den Berg (Netherlands): It is my honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

Although we note positive developments, the situation in West Africa remains fragile. For the Council to focus on the region is therefore appropriate at this moment when we ask ourselves how positive developments can be strengthened and relapses avoided.

The goals of the Security Council mission to West Africa were twofold. First, the mission set out to address particular situations in a number of countries in the region. Most pressing were the talks in Côte d'Ivoire, where the mission tried to rekindle negotiations between parties. The European Union shares the Security Council's concern at the situation in

Côte d'Ivoire and reaffirms the individual responsibility of the political leaders to avoid confrontation and engage in dialogue and negotiations on the basis of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The European Union fully appreciates the strong message that was delivered by the mission to all political leaders in Côte d'Ivoire. In that regard, we also welcome the West African mini-summit organized by the Secretary-General on 6 July in Addis Ababa, which is to be followed up later this month in Accra.

Secondly, the mission addressed a wide number of thematic, region-wide issues. In that regard, the mission followed up on the 12 March 2004 report of the Secretary-General on cross-border problems (S/2004/200). I would also refer to the comprehensive strategy for cooperation with West Africa adopted by the European Union in May 2004. A central tenet of that strategy is tackling the overarching challenge of integrating short-term crisis management with longer-term preventive measures.

I would like to focus my intervention on three thematic issues that are related to long-term developments: the United Nations post-conflict strategy for the region, the value of regional integration and synergies of peacekeeping operations.

First, with respect to post-conflict situations, the current situation in West Africa offers, in the words of the report, a real chance to break out of the cycle of conflict and poverty. Throughout its mission, the Security Council stressed the relationship between security and development. The European Union fully agrees that, in making the transition to peace and economic development in West Africa, that link is of the utmost importance.

As the United Nations lacks one single operational peace-building body, United Nations organs have to cooperate actively to bring together security and development concerns. We certainly hope that the Security Council will further pursue the comprehensive approach it adopted in the mission report (S/2004/525). One way might be to explore further ad hoc composite committees of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and/or the General Assembly that deal specifically with post-conflict situations. A positive example in the West African region is the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau.

Yesterday, the Economic and Social Council discussed the assessment of the ad hoc advisory groups. The European Union reiterated the valuable contributions those groups make in pursuing a comprehensive United Nations approach to peace-building. It was also stated that collaboration between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council could be intensified. We would like to take this opportunity to make the very same point.

Areas of potential cooperation are disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and security sector reform. The Security Council and the Economic and Social Council could also rally together to seek donor assistance. Post-conflict situations too easily disappear from the front pages and consequently from the radar screen of donors.

My second set of remarks regards regional integration. Of course, the primary responsibility for bringing about change and sustaining peace efforts lies with the States in the region. In our view, regional integration in West Africa can play a vital role in preventing future conflicts. For years, cross-border problems such as child soldiers, mercenaries, small arms and the illegal exploitation of natural resources have been fuelling conflicts. Solutions too must therefore also be found at the regional level.

In West Africa, we recognize the positive role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Like many other countries and organizations, the European Union supports the strengthening of that organization and of its institutional capacity. In our view, now is the time to work out a systemic donor coordination mechanism under the leadership of ECOWAS. The European Union strategy of May 2004 also calls for the development of a conceptual framework for conflict prevention and peace-building in West Africa. We hope the leaders in the region will enable ECOWAS to undertake that task.

Finally, the international community can also contribute by intensifying its partnership both with individual countries and with relevant organizations in the region. The European Union tries to structure its political dialogue with ECOWAS for that purpose. As the European Union President, the Netherlands has invited all Foreign Ministers of ECOWAS to an informal meeting with their European Union counterparts in Maastricht on 4 September. I can also

report that this week the European Union extended the mandate of Mr. Hans Dahlgren as representative of the presidency of the European Union to the countries of the Mano River Union.

My last set of remarks regards synergy and peacekeeping. The report of the mission deals with collaboration and coordination within and between United Nations missions in West Africa. Currently, three large United Nations peacekeeping operations are active in the region, amounting to almost 30,000 troops and nearly half the peacekeeping budget of the United Nations.

True, the situations in the countries differ. At the same time, many problems and challenges with which the United Nations has to deal are closely related. It seems worthwhile to make a thorough analysis of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and look for attainable synergies. Common border patrols and the exchange of information are things that immediately come to mind. We might also look at more fundamental questions such as the possible scope of a pooling of logistical needs.

The European Union looks forward to the report that is currently being prepared by the Secretariat on this issue. West Africa stands to benefit greatly from ideas that would make the United Nations missions in the region more effective. Subsequent efficiency gains could possibly enable a more sustained United Nations presence throughout the region. They would also benefit the wider United Nations and provide us all with important lessons to be learned for regional peacekeeping.

Let me conclude by thanking you again, Mr. President, for the opportunity to discuss with the Council and with the countries of the region the report of the Council's mission to West Africa. Whether it is for short-term crisis management or long-term strategy, the European Union stands ready to be a partner to contribute our shared goal of peace and stability for the peoples of the region.

The President: I thank the representative of the Netherlands for his kind words addressed to the presidency.

The next speaker is the representative of Japan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Haraguchi (Japan): The Government of Japan considers the consolidation of peace and the realization of human security to be the most urgent and essential agenda for the West Africa region. Japan continues to undertake various initiatives, mainly through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, to effectively address those issues.

In that regard, my Government welcomes the fact that the transition to peace and stability is proceeding in Sierra Leone and Liberia and that progress has been made in a number of areas towards the reconstruction of both those countries. We are also pleased to note that Guinea-Bissau has held successful legislative elections and that a major step has been taken toward restoring constitutional order. We have been actively providing support for such efforts in order to accelerate the pace of progress, as stated at the Security Council meeting on 25 March (see S/PV.4933). With respect to Liberia, my Government has extended approximately $9 million in assistance from March to July to support the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation (DDRR) process, and humanitarian and similar efforts.

In view of the geopolitical conditions in West Africa, where the situations in neighbouring countries are often closely interlinked, it is critical to take a regional approach to securing the peace and stability of individual countries. As has been repeatedly observed in the past, and is pointed out again in the report of the Security Council mission to West Africa (S/2004/525), we must recognize that, quite often, instability in a certain country has a negative impact on the region as a whole. From that point of view, we are deeply concerned about the current political impasse in Côte d'Ivoire and would like to emphasize once again that a clear commitment and determined efforts on the part of all parties concerned are needed in order to promote the peace process, especially in terms of full and unconditional implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. In that regard, the Government of Japan commends the efforts of the Secretary-General, the African Union and concerned countries to set common objectives and a work schedule with a view to holding a summit in Accra on 29 July.

We sent a delegation to the African Union Summit held in Ethiopia last week. We are glad that we were able to meet with a number of the leaders and ministers of countries in the West Africa region to exchange views on issues of peace in the region, including that of Côte d'Ivoire, as well as on the critical importance of consolidating peace.

Having said that, I would like to point out the following three issues that we consider of particular importance in promoting a regional approach. First, Japan welcomes the effort towards achieving mutual cooperation, especially in the field of border controls, among the United Nations missions deployed in several countries of West Africa. It is expected that, as a result of that effort, limited United Nations resources will be used more efficiently and that cost-effectiveness will be greatly increased. We also welcome the gradual scaling down of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) as a result of its successful progress. This reminds us of the need for other peacekeeping operations to be re-evaluated, based on an assessment of the actual situation on the ground, and adjusted as necessary. As regards the suggestion in the report that the United Nations Office for West Africa should be provided with additional resources, we would like to emphasize that this proposal should be thoroughly examined from the standpoint of whether it will facilitate the promotion of cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Secondly, it is important to enhance the capacity of Africa itself for managing conflicts. In this area, ECOWAS, which is actively conducting various activities in West Africa for the prevention of conflict, has a significant role to play in the region. The United Nations should try to strengthen the capacity of ECOWAS through further mutual cooperation efforts. As stated in the report, to achieve sustainable peace and development, it is essential that not only the countries emerging from conflict but also all the neighbouring countries in the region make efforts to improve their governance through such activities as strengthened border controls and anti-corruption campaigns. International support in this regard is certainly necessary, but we would like to emphasize that the ownership efforts of Africa are the most important element.

Thirdly, Japan shares the view that DDRR is one of the most critical tasks in the peace process. In that connection, we take note of the point raised in the report about the discrepancy in available funding between DD — demobilization and disarmament — and RR — repatriation and rehabilitation. Japan has provided support for DDRR in countries such as Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, and will continue to cooperate in this field.

We also share the concern of the mission over the three-to-one discrepancy between the amounts of the compensation payments offered in Côte d'Ivoire by the World Bank and in Liberia by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations budget. It is reported that this discrepancy is accelerating the flow of ex-combatants into Côte d'Ivoire and is threatening to become a source of instability. With regard to the compensation payments, the question of whether the use of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations budget is appropriate should be re-examined, while promoting the involvement of the World Bank and other development institutions.

Moreover, the ongoing implementation of DDRR in each country will not lead to a fundamental resolution of the problem unless the flow of small arms is controlled effectively throughout the region as a whole. In that connection, we recognize the importance of the role that ECOWAS has been playing in controlling the movement of arms by means of its moratorium on small arms. We also consider it useful to have the Secretary-General's recommendations on what action the Security Council should take to help reduce the proliferation of small arms in the subregion, as indicated in the mission report.

We have repeatedly underscored the necessity of evaluating the cost-effectiveness of Security Council missions. We believe it would be very helpful if a detailed explanation were made publicly available of the benefits and costs of sending a Security Council mission to a region where on-the-ground United Nations activities are in place.

We would also like to reiterate that it is of the utmost importance that ownership efforts be promoted by each country in the West Africa region, with the cooperation of international society, in order to ensure the attainment of peace in West Africa. So long as such ownership efforts continue to be made in the region, Japan will remain committed to supporting such efforts as a responsible member of the international community.

Mr. Adechi (Benin) (*spoke in French*): We wish to express our warm appreciation to Ambassador Jones Parry for his excellent introduction of the report (S/2004/525) of the Security Council mission to West Africa, which he headed.

After all that has been said on the subject, we will be brief. Although, given the duration of the mission, the objectives that we set were rather ambitious, the challenges that the region faces fully justified the mission. In each of the seven countries that received the mission, we were able to see that, even if the real state of affairs were different in each case, the origins and consequences of the problems were for the most part the same. We were also able to appreciate again how important a United Nations presence in the region is, and we took note of the agreement between the Security Council's analysis and the analyses of the subregional organization and the continental organization.

We noted that the process of restoring normalcy and peace-building in the region depends heavily on the creation of an environment that would develop the strong economic potential of the subregion. Moreover, that is clear with regard to the many recommendations made, which the report introduced by Ambassador Jones Parry describes in detail.

Finally, the mission gave Council members an opportunity to assess the possibilities for strengthening cooperation among the United Nations and subregional and continental organizations, whose resolve to effectively promote peace and stability in the countries of the subregion is well known. As a result of the mission, we have an excellent harvest of information, which should enable us to better orient our activities in the subregion's direction.

My delegation therefore believes it is now imperative that we set in order the priorities identified with a view to addressing more effectively the issue of mobilizing and rationally using financial, material and even human resources, whose scarcity often contributes to the failure of recommended measures. The considerations I just outlined prove the need to ensure systematic follow-up by the Security Council of implementation of the mission's conclusions and of the recommendations made in the context of the first report of the Secretary-General on ways to combat regional and cross-border problems in West Africa. The Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention should also study the report to identify opportunities for synergy with a view to promoting peace and stability in the subregion.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I shall try to be as brief as my colleague from Benin. First of all, I should like to congratulate the mission's members and, at their head, Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry on the quality of the work accomplished in a relatively short period of time.

As a result of their visit to the West African subregion, they returned strengthened in the conviction that development, peace and security are closely linked and that it would therefore be futile to plan for development without providing it with the prerequisite of peace, and vice versa. They also noted first-hand the regional aspect of domestic crises that, assisted by circumstances, spread swiftly to other countries, which themselves have often just emerged from devastating conflicts.

Those quick observations enable us to believe that the dynamic approach to conflict prevention called for by the mission's members can only be comprehensive and collective. It must, of course, involve the countries of the region, but also the United Nations system, whose strategy must range from peacekeeping to supporting measures to ensure that the peace is deeply rooted.

From that perspective, it is important to observe that, in the countries visited by the mission, the key words now seem to be reconstruction and reconciliation and that priority has been given to the organization of free and transparent elections, to development and to good governance. Likewise, in each of the countries, the challenges are more or less identical, although not always of equal intensity. They include a lack of financial means, social and economic problems, issues of disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration (DDRR), the repatriation of foreign combatants, the restructuring of armed forces, corruption, impunity, the circulation of light weapons, the recruitment of child soldiers, human rights violations and the threat of uncontrolled crises spilling over borders.

Mobilizing the donor community and the Bretton Woods institutions to provide financial resources and technical assistance as well as to ensure the success of political, economic and social reforms in these countries is more essential than ever before. Therefore,

it would be desirable for the pledges of contributions to those countries to be quickly implemented.

I should like to say a word about Côte d'Ivoire. The impasse over the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the paralysis of the Government of National Reconciliation could, if we are not careful, gravely compromise the entire peace process. Although we welcome the commitments undertaken by President Gbagbo during the mini-summit presided over by the Secretary-General on 6 July at Addis Ababa, my delegation believes that, in order to break the deadlock and to ensure the adoption of the legislative reforms envisaged by 28 July, the international community — particularly the Security Council — must ensure that the commitments are respected. We await the holding and the results of the regional summit planned for 29 July in the Ghanaian capital.

Here, I should like to commend the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for its active and valuable role in peace-building in the subregion and to call for an intensification of the cooperation among ECOWAS, the United Nations system and other regional organizations to address the subregional and cross-border problems in West Africa. We also believe it essential to strengthen the United Nations Office for West Africa so that it can fully play its role in an effective and consistent regional approach with regard to conflicts.

Finally, I should like to welcome the efforts made at the continental, regional and subregional levels to increase peacekeeping capacities in Africa. The establishment of the African Union's Peace and Security Council, the active role played by subregional organizations, particularly ECOWAS, and the deployment of African peacekeeping missions are the most striking illustrations.

Mr. Valle (Brazil): My delegation is grateful to you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting. We thank Ambassador Jones Parry for introducing the report (S/2004/525).

First of all, I take this opportunity to mention that, in 10 days' time, President Lula da Silva will take part in a meeting of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) in Sao Tome and Principe, and, pursuing our policy of cooperation and solidarity with Africa, he will also visit Cape Verde and Gabon. West Africa faces us from the other side of the Atlantic and is very close to our hearts and minds. We consider that discussions pertaining to countries of the region should have the full involvement of all Council members.

The progress being made in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau is quite impressive. In Côte d'Ivoire the political deadlock seemed insurmountable. But, having heard Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno's briefing last Tuesday, we have renewed hope that the difficult situation in that country will benefit from the personal involvement of the Secretary-General at Addis Ababa and the upcoming meeting in Accra. We are also very pleased by the active engagement of heads of State of the region and of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the process of helping Ivorian parties return to the negotiating table.

In the countries I mentioned, poverty and unemployment represent a permanent source of instability and insecurity. We consider that the Council should be regularly informed about what specific projects are being carried out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and by United Nations country teams in order to foster economic occupation in the short term — particularly by young people, who are most likely to fall prey to militias and armed groups. Although direct responsibility for development initiatives falls elsewhere within this Organization, their link to peace and security becomes ever more evident. That is why the attention devoted by the Council to development in post-conflict areas should be increased.

We were also very encouraged by the intention of ECOWAS to develop a conflict-prevention strategy. It is our expectation that, in the future, the Council will be working within a framework not only of peacekeeping operations, but also of conflict-avoidance initiatives. Cooperation between ECOWAS and the United Nations Office for West Africa is very welcome, and we agree that the Office's needs for additional resources should be looked into as a matter of priority. However, it seems that, having been created as a result of the call of ECOWAS for a regional approach to threats to peace and security, the Office could benefit from being located in Abuja.

With regard to Guinea-Bissau, our delegation has always stressed the importance of joint work done by the Security Council and by the Economic and Social Council, and it is a very positive sign that the mission

was undertaken jointly with the Ad Hoc Advisory Group.

The international community must remain fully engaged in Guinea-Bissau so that the investment there will not have been made in vain. The significant progress made in the political transition should not be lost through insufficient economic activity. We call upon the Bretton Woods institutions and development partners to step up their financial and technical assistance to that country, with a view to a smooth process towards sustainable peace, culminating in presidential elections in March 2005.

A matter of grave concern is the large quantity of arms held by the population, as the report has indicated. There are concerns that arms from other countries in the subregion might be heading to Guinea-Bissau. We wonder if the high ratio of combatants to weapons noted in Liberia could mean that arms are being smuggled out of one country into another, in particular into countries without a United Nations military presence, as is the case of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. The joint mechanisms for cooperation among peacekeeping operations in the region should prevent that from happening. We fully agree with the mission's recommendation that the Security Council should give consideration to the issue, and that ECOWAS should include Guinea-Bissau in its regional policies of containing proliferation. The fact, stated in the report, that ECOWAS is planning to strengthen its moratorium on small arms and to replace it with a mandatory convention is a welcome development, and the Council should support that initiative.

On the question of a regional approach to cross-border problems, it seems from the recommendations contained in the report that the harmonization of the various programmes of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement in the region has not progressed as much as expected. This is probably the single most important item for coordination among United Nations peacekeeping missions in West Africa, and it should be constantly pursued and should include, as recommended by the Security Council, countries neighbouring those emerging from conflict.

Finally, since Brazil chairs the sanctions Committee for Sierra Leone, I would like to add that the point raised in paragraph 42 of the report has also been brought to the attention of Committee members by the Special Court and that the Committee will be looking into the matter as soon as next week. The Committee will give due consideration to the request for a priori exemption from the travel ban for those under the custody of the Court should they need urgent removal for medical treatment.

Mr. Konuzin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We welcome the outcome of the Security Council mission to West Africa, which we view as an important signal to parties to conflict that they must abide by the commitments they have undertaken. We stress that, in the light of the cross-border nature of many problems in West Africa, the consideration and resolution of such problems must be comprehensive and far-reaching. I turn now to the situations in specific countries.

To make further progress in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, approaches must be harmoniously combined on the basis of the provisions of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the Côte d'Ivoire Constitution. We welcome the regional summit held in Addis Ababa on 6 July, and we have hopes for the results of the contacts among the Côte d'Ivoire parties to take place at Accra on 29 July. It is important to do everything possible to end the increased centrifugal forces operating in the country, particularly during the preparations for elections. It is also crucial to overcome ongoing uncertainty with respect to programmes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. We take note of the Government's adoption of specific measures to put an end to impunity. All those guilty of human rights violations must receive the punishment they deserve. Here, we shall attach particular importance to the final report of the International Commission of Inquiry to investigate all reports of human rights violations since the events of September 2002.

With regard to Liberia, we must always bear in mind that, for practical purposes, Government authority is limited to Monrovia, and that armed factions continue to hold sway in other parts of the country. The international community must step up its efforts to assist the Government in strengthening State authority throughout the territory of Liberia. The elections planned for October 2005 have an important role to play in stabilizing the country. A timetable for the political process is needed to ensure that the elections take place as scheduled, and it must be unswervingly followed. As to the lifting of sanctions,

this must be closely linked to guarantees of the irreversibility of a political settlement in Liberia.

In Sierra Leone, the authorities have a great deal to do as the peacekeeping operation there comes to an end. The final drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone directly depends on how effectively the Government can control the situation.

In Guinea-Bissau, constitutional order must be restored as quickly as possible, through the holding of elections that adhere to democratic standards. It is important to make every effort to support positive trends and not to allow the peace process to be undermined. Here, it is even more critical that the international community provide the country with the assistance it needs.

The current transparency of borders in the region gives rise to numerous, extremely serious problems and threats that demand comprehensive study and resolution taking account of recommendations and proposals formulated on the basis of joint efforts by United Nations missions in the region, the Security Council mission to West Africa and regional and subregional organizations. In our view, this matter merits special, in-depth consideration.

Mr. Mercado (Philippines): We thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting to discuss the outcome of the recent Security Council mission to West Africa. We join other delegations in commending Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry for his able leadership of that productive mission, which visited seven countries in 10 days.

West Africa is a region that faces many challenges, but it is also a region of great potential. That potential, however, has not been realized in past years. It is in that light that the Security Council continues to remain actively seized of the issues of the region. The Security Council's visits last year and last month were not only a clear manifestation of the Council's keen interest in the promotion of peace and security in West Africa, but also, and equally important, the Council's strongest medium for delivering its message to the concerned parties in the region. The main themes, which cut across the seven countries visited by the mission, were the unbreakable link between peace and security on the one hand and economic development on the other, and the need to employ a regional approach in addressing complex crises and conflicts in the region.

Bearing those themes in mind, we welcome the report of the mission (S/2004/525) and would like to highlight the following points.

First, inasmuch as security and development go hand in hand, the United Nations should harness and use all of its resources in planning and implementing its conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution and post-conflict peace-building strategies. That entails interdependence, cooperation and coordination among United Nations organs whose mandates have an impact on the attainment of sustainable peace. The collaborative work undertaken by the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau and the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa in monitoring and supporting the political, economic and social developments in Guinea-Bissau have resulted in appreciable progress in carrying out a peaceful transition in that country. That collaboration should continue, and it should be encouraged for other countries in the region.

Secondly, the Security Council should also be guided by the economic aspects of its interventions when planning its exit strategies for peacekeeping operations. A case in point is Sierra Leone. While its gross domestic product has been growing by an average of 6.5 per cent for the past three years, it cannot be denied that the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) is an important contributor to the Sierra Leone economy. The departure of UNAMSIL in 2005 would have a negative impact on the country's economy, at least in the short term. That means a shift of focus from security-sector reform — which should still be pursued — to creating jobs and stimulating private investment to sustain economic growth. Inasmuch as Sierra Leone is now in the post-conflict peace-building stage, greater attention should be given to economic concerns.

Another lesson learned from this situation is that the economic impact of the drawdown of successful peacekeeping operations should be factored into withdrawal decisions. In view of that, economic indicators could be used as one of the benchmarks in drafting future drawdown plans for peacekeeping operations.

Thirdly, the Security Council should continue to exert its influence in creating a constructive environment for these post-conflict countries to receive

aid and get investments. It cannot be denied that the Security Council's positive engagement in a country can encourage donors to provide financial assistance and persuade entities to invest. Since peace and security are the paramount considerations of investors, the Council's imprimatur can convince investors to bring in their resources — for example, to rebuild physical infrastructure, which is an important requirement for long-term economic development in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau.

In the same vein, the Council should also strongly encourage those countries to improve their business climates for investor confidence, as institutional stability is the second main concern of investors, after peace and security. That can be done by assuring transparency and accountability in governance.

My delegation would finally like to underscore the important role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the West African equation. ECOWAS is the regional organization most capable of helping the countries of West Africa achieve peace and development. ECOWAS still faces serious challenges, but it is growing in effectiveness. ECOWAS needs the continued strong support of both the Security Council and the international community in order to achieve its goals and objectives.

We recognize the recent efforts of ECOWAS in attaining economic integration. As post-conflict peace-building looms on the horizon, it may be time for ECOWAS to give attention to the economic considerations of the region, which was the original purpose of its existence. The establishment of the Abidjan-Lagos highway corridor, the construction of the Lagos-Accra pipeline and plans for a West African power grid system are initiatives with far-reaching consequences that should be actively pursued.

Much work lies ahead of us in operationalizing the various recommendations contained in the mission's report. The problems of West Africa continue even as we speak. We have no other option but to proceed to implement the courses of action we have agreed upon. My delegation looks forward to the day when the Security Council need not send its members to the field to assess the situation and find solutions to problems in the region. When that day arrives, it will mean that we have done our job.

Mr. Zhang Yishan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation welcomes the convening of this meeting. I am grateful to Ambassador Jones Parry for his briefing, and to other countries for their statements.

The West African subregion is endowed with rich natural resources and a large population; it has a great potential for economic development and prosperity. And yet, for different reasons, many countries in the region have, to varying degrees, been afflicted by armed conflicts. Although the situation in most of the region has improved markedly in the past year, the countries of the region continue to face the arduous task of post-conflict peace-building.

The proliferation of small arms and the use of mercenaries and child soldiers continue to plague the region, negatively affecting the development of the entire region. How to help the countries of the region to extricate themselves once and for all from the vicious circle of conflict and poverty and to embark on the road to peace and development is a long-term challenge facing the region, as well as the international community.

Experience in recent years has shown that the dispatch of a visiting mission is an effective means for the Council to gain further first-hand understanding of the situation in West Africa, as well as to seek possible solutions. Through the joint effort of all parties concerned, this year's mission to the region has achieved its expected goals. The report of the mission (S/2004/525) contains many good recommendations that may help promote the solution of problems in West Africa. Those recommendations therefore deserve to be studied seriously and implemented soon by the Security Council. The useful ideas just proposed by countries that were visited, as well as by other interested countries and organizations, also deserve to be studied by the Council.

The problems in West Africa transcend national borders. Their solution calls for a regional, integrated and comprehensive approach. China appreciates the positive role played by the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Mano River Union and other regional and subregional organizations in that regard. China supports the ECOWAS idea of establishing a stand-by force. China also welcomes the holding in May of a Mano River Union summit meeting, which we hope will lead to the Union's revitalization. It is necessary that the international community support, and work in

coordination with, those organizations in their efforts, as well as to help the countries of the region to engage in economic development and realize sustainable development in order to tackle the causes of conflict at their roots.

Mr. Siv (United States of America): The Security Council's mission to West Africa was my first visit to the region in five years. I was again struck on the one hand by its enormous potential, with its mineral resources, rich agricultural lands and proud lineage, and, on the other, by its enormous vulnerability and institutional weakness.

The Security Council, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), key regional leaders and troop-contributing countries have made an enormous investment in the nations of West Africa, especially in those that host peacekeeping operations. That investment helps to restore and preserve stability in the region and must be safeguarded. We must move from lip service about the regional dimension of many of West Africa's problems to concrete efforts to coordinate peacekeeping operations and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

The Council mission underscored, for me, the importance of geography and the ease with which weapons, mercenaries, displaced populations and destabilizing elements can move across borders. The international community needs to respond to those challenges and assist national Governments to address them as well, if the responses are to be sustainable.

I salute Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry for his outstanding leadership of the mission.

Mr. Mahmood (Pakistan): As this is my first opportunity to do so in a public meeting this month, let me begin by extending our warmest felicitations to you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency for the month of July. We would also like to commend Ambassador Baja and other members of the delegation of the Philippines for an outstanding job during their presidency in June.

We would like to thank Ambassador Jones Parry for his superb leadership of the mission and for the precision and eloquence with which he articulated the Council's messages to the various interlocutors in West Africa. We are also grateful to the countries of the subregion that the mission visited. The views they expressed today provide crucial input as the Council further deliberates on the issues relevant to them.

The mission to West Africa reaffirmed the value of this instrument at the Council's disposal. It underscored the Council's commitment to Africa. It provided an opportunity to interact directly with the stakeholders, enhance understanding of the ground realities, deepen cooperation with regional and subregional partners, and appreciate first-hand the excellent work being done by the peacekeeping operations, the special representatives of the Secretary-General and other United Nations presences in translating into reality the mandates approved by the Council.

The mission also reaffirmed our belief that, while individual conflict situations require the close attention of the Council, there is a need for a regional approach to address the cross-cutting issues. This is an essential prerequisite for a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to all aspects of peace and security. We have no doubt that the mission's wide-ranging recommendations will be systematically followed up.

Allow me now to make a few observations on the individual situations.

In Côte d'Ivoire, Linas-Marcoussis is the agreed road map and its concrete, time-bound implementation remains imperative. Immediate confidence-building measures are required to breach the prevailing gulf of distrust. All Ivorian parties must come together for the unity, long-term stability and development of their country. The regional leaders deserve the Council's commendation for their efforts to help break the political impasse and to find a way forward. We hope that the Accra summit on 29 July will put the peace process firmly back on track.

In Liberia, the deployment of the United Nations Mission there has led to a steady improvement in the security situation, while the implementation of the comprehensive Peace Agreement continues apace. However, notable challenges remain, including an effective reintegration and rehabilitation programme for ex-combatants, as well as economic recovery and reconstruction. In this context, the issue of economic sanctions is important and the Council must revisit it as Liberia makes progress in achieving the benchmarks related to the diamond and timber sectors. Equally

important is the need to redeem the pledges made at the reconstruction conference in February this year.

In Sierra Leone, the United Nations Mission there has contributed enormously to building a solid foundation for peace. The gains are significant, yet fragile in the face of internal challenges and potential external threats. Accelerated progress must be achieved on some key benchmarks, including the building of the armed forces, the extension of State authority and control over the diamond-mining areas. These issues have an important bearing on decisions about the residual presence of the United Nations force.

In Guinea-Bissau, the process of political transition seems firmly on track and the country's leadership resolutely committed to reform. As a typical post-conflict case, stabilization in Guinea-Bissau requires institutional capacity-building and the means to address the long-term economic challenges. The country is about to enter into crucial negotiations with the Bretton Woods institutions. The flexibility and cooperation of international partners are critical in ensuring sustainable peace and economic development.

In the regional context, efforts are under way to address the cross-cutting issues. Special attention must continue to be accorded to stemming the proliferation of small arms, mercenaries and child soldiers. Among the challenges that need to be tackled are the harmonization of demobilization, reintegration and resettlement or repatriation processes throughout West Africa. In this regard, close coordination between various peacekeeping operations and the Governments concerned is critical. The issue of youth unemployment requires urgent attention.

Three countries — Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire — are scheduled to have elections in 2005. These are significant milestones in their full transition to peaceful and democratic governance. The international community must provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure successful elections.

The leadership role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the subregion is highly commendable. In a relatively short time, ECOWAS has emerged as a reliable partner of the Security Council. It is essential to provide assistance to build the capacity of the ECOWAS secretariat and to help regional States enhance their capacities to deal with the issues of peace and security. Recent efforts to re-energize the Mano River Union also deserve the Council's encouragement and support.

In the larger context, the link between peace and development is most obvious in West Africa. Of the seven peacekeeping operations in the African continent, three are in West Africa. Thirteen of the 15 ECOWAS States are least-developed countries. Sustainable peace and security in the subregion cannot be achieved without social and economic development. The underlying structural causes of conflict — including poverty, hunger, disease, economic underdevelopment and the illegal exploitation of natural resources — must be addressed. While doing so, attention should increasingly turn from conflict management to conflict prevention and resolution. A coherent prevention strategy, developed in cooperation with regional actors, is essential.

Lastly, the need for a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach by the United Nations system to the complex crises and challenges in Africa is self-evident. The Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are usefully cooperating in addressing the post-conflict situation in Guinea-Bissau. The proposed ad hoc composite committees of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council could be a useful framework for enhancing system-wide coordination and developing appropriate responses to the challenges of peace and development. The representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Union, called attention to that proposal today, while emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach. We believe it deserves the serious consideration of the three principal organs.

The President: I thank the representative of Pakistan for his words of appreciation to me and my delegation.

Mr. Llanos (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): West Africa is an area of priority concern to the Security Council and the recent Council mission to the region attests to our political interest in its peace and stability. The United Nations has made a great effort in the region to end conflicts and to assist in the processes of post-conflict reconstruction. My delegation welcomes the fact that the Council mission took a regional approach, which alone can guarantee peace and stability in the region.

In the context of the specific characteristics of each country, the Council was able to note that Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone have had positive experiences in the post-conflict phase. All face important electoral processes in the coming months that will enable them freely to choose their own leaders and to participate in their own social and economic development.

The role of the United Nations is to provide assistance and facilitation in order to ensure that every process is sustainable. It cannot replace the endeavours that must be made within each society by all sectors. Furthermore, the United Nations should also prevent potential crises in third countries of the region that are not currently on the Security Council's agenda.

The greatest challenges to regional stability are unquestionably linked to Côte d'Ivoire. The serious difficulties being encountered in the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and the polarization of the country make it vital that solutions be found that preserve its territorial integrity. We are also concerned about the potential repercussions of that crisis on neighbouring countries. We believe that we should support the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the meeting to be held in Accra on 29 July.

As noted in the mission's report, in Guinea-Bissau, notwithstanding the progress achieved in the political transition, the general situation is fragile. The Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group has helped Guinea-Bissau to meet its humanitarian and development needs, opening new prospects for United Nations involvement and for cooperation with a country emerging from conflict.

With respect to Liberia and Sierra Leone, the United Nations commitment is evidenced in two important peacekeeping operations with multidimensional mandates. Following the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, to take place late this year, the Organization will maintain a presence in Sierra Leone in order to assist that country in assuming responsibility for its own security. It is important to secure the protection and promotion of human rights. We recognize the specific contributions that can be made by such institutions as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Sierra Leone, which has just finished its work. The contribution that such entities can make should be regarded as complementary to the work of the justice system. In Côte d'Ivoire, those responsible for human rights violations should be brought to trial.

The Council mission was able to observe the scale of cross-border problems in the region and the influences at work among countries emerging from conflict. None of them is safe from those influences. For that reason, we believe that there is great need for the Council to continue to treat the regional problems as a single whole.

We believe that the reactivation of the Mano River Union should be encouraged. The recent meeting of heads of State in Conakry is an encouraging sign of that reactivation. The Mano River Union is called upon to play a role in promoting peace and security in the subregion.

I conclude by underlining the role of ECOWAS in promoting peace and its commitment to democracy in the region. The recommendations of the Council's mission identify areas for collaboration between the United Nations and ECOWAS that deserve the support of the international community.

The President: There are no further speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5006

Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

5006th meeting

Monday, 19 July 2004, 10.55 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Motoc	(Romania)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Chile	Mr. Muñoz
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	France	Mr. Florent
	Germany	Mr. Pleuger
	Pakistan	Mr. Chaudhry
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	Spain	Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. King
	United States of America	Mr. Danforth

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Letter dated 1 July 2004 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2004/541)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

04-43000 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Letter dated 1 July 2004 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2004/541)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uzbekistan, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Alexander Konuzin, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Ambassador Konuzin to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2004/541, which contains the text of a letter dated 1 July 2004 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, transmitting the Committee's work programme for its twelfth 90-day period, covering July to September 2004.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Alexander Konuzin, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Konuzin (*spoke in Russian*): I am very pleased to address the Security Council today in my capacity as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in order to brief the Council on the Committee's activities and to submit for the Council's consideration the Committee's twelfth work programme, for the next 90-day period, from 1 July to 30 September 2004.

As the Council knows, I assumed the position of Chairman of the CTC at the end of May, succeeding Ambassador Arias of Spain. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to express once again our gratitude and appreciation for the effective leadership and great creativity which Ambassador Arias demonstrated throughout his 13 months at the head of the Committee.

I would also like to introduce Mr. Javier Ruperez of Spain, who has been appointed Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. He has already started practical planning work aimed at consolidating the new structure. I am confident that under his leadership the Executive Directorate will effectively support the activities of the CTC.

Before presenting the twelfth work programme, I shall refer to the implementation of the CTC's previous work programme. The adoption of resolution 1535 (2004) on 26 March marked the start of the important process of revitalization. Since that time, the major challenge for the Committee has been the maintenance of an effective balance between reform efforts and the Committee's short-term activities.

During this new stage of its work, the CTC has continued to monitor implementation of resolution

1373 (2001), relying on reports submitted by States in response to the letters addressed to them by the Committee. It should be noted that during this transitional period the CTC could not avoid a slowdown in the review of reports. Of 65 reports planned for review from 1 April to 30 June 2004, only 25 were actually completed. Nevertheless, the Committee has taken all possible measures to accelerate the process and to overcome the delay.

At the same time, the CTC has detected that the approach to this work also needs to be changed. The analysis of country assessments of assistance needs should be integrated into the review process as one of its major elements. That task was highlighted in the Committee's previous, eleventh work programme, but practical work did not begin until last month. Assessments of that kind could be instrumental in developing practical cooperation with donor countries and organizations and in ensuring that the global technical assistance efforts are better adjusted to real needs. The Committee will continue to work in line with that approach.

Encouraging States to become parties to the relevant conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and to implement their provisions in their national legislation, has remained one of the priorities in the Committee's work. Through the efforts of the CTC, the number of States joining the international conventions related to terrorism has increased, making an important contribution to the strengthening of the international legal basis for the fight against terrorism.

During the Chairman of the Committee's early-July briefing to interested delegations, the report on the current status of ratification of the 12 conventions and on the role in that process of the CTC itself were presented. We will continue to engage in regular monitoring of the process of ratification and implementation of the conventions, and will encourage States to join the treaties as soon as possible.

In the area of technical assistance, the Committee has continued to pursue its work with Member States, in order to develop an approach that is better adjusted to their needs. The Committee has also continued to develop the Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance as an information tool on best practices, model laws and assistance programmes. However, the Directory alone cannot meet the new requirements. The Committee intends to assume a more active role in coordinating the provision of technical assistance, particularly through the new formats of direct dialogue with Member States, both in New York and in capitals, and of information exchange with the donor community. We will take all necessary measures to promote that process.

With regard to transparency, the Committee resumed the practice of regular briefings by the Chairman for interested delegations. A briefing on the CTC's current activities was held on 2 July 2004. It was attended by more than 50 delegations. At the same time, we should recognize that the Committee web site has not been regularly updated. Furthermore, experience has proven that the Committee's outreach efforts have been inadequate to its tasks at this stage of revitalization. That lack of public awareness about the CTC's activities may have led to some misperceptions about the Committee's work, adding to the problems of communication and practical cooperation with Member States. The Committee will therefore continue its efforts to improve its communication methods.

The Committee has continued to develop cooperation and coordination with international, regional and subregional organizations. During the eleventh 90-day period, the Committee's experts participated in many international conferences and seminars concerning various aspects of counter-terrorism. Briefings to the Committee by a number of international organizations and bodies — including the European Union and the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States — provided the CTC with very important information on their experiences with and approaches to international cooperation against terrorism. They also offered an opportunity to evaluate the capacity of those organizations to be involved in the process of technical assistance and information exchange.

Let me now draw the Council's attention to the general features of the twelfth report, which covers the period from July to September 2004. By 30 June 2004, the Committee had received 515 reports from Member States and others. That included 160 second reports from Member States and two from others, as well as 116 third, and 40 fourth, reports from Member States. Nevertheless, by 30 June 2004, 71 States had not met the deadline for submission of their respective reports. I should like to take this opportunity to remind the

representatives of those States that they should submit their outstanding reports as soon as possible.

We are open to every possible means of cooperation and dialogue with Member States in order to assist them to solve the problems that caused the delay in the submission of their reports. The review of reports from Member States will remain a key element of the CTC's activities. The Committee will also continue to call upon States to meet the requirements of resolution 1373 (2001), as well as to support them in doing so.

The Committee's main task during the twelfth 90-day period is the implementation of resolution 1535 (2004). On 29 June, Ambassador Javier Rupérez took office as Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). In accordance with resolution 1535 (2004), within the next 30 days, the Executive Director is to submit to the Committee an organizational plan for the CTED. Ambassador Rupérez has started consultations about the draft plan with members of the CTC. We expect to consider the draft plan in late July, and to present it to the Security Council for its endorsement. Pursuant to resolution 1535 (2004), the Secretary-General will then take the appropriate steps to implement the plan on an expedited basis, including, at the appropriate time, by seeking General Assembly approval.

The Committee will pursue the course of closer coordination with United Nations bodies dealing with various aspects of the fight against terrorism. First of all, we plan to strengthen cooperation between the CTC and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Those issues have already been discussed at an informal meeting between the Chairs of the two Committees, and we have agreed on some forms of cooperation. As the contacts between our Committees develop, we will be ready to consider further coordination measures. The CTC will also seek appropriate working contacts with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) concerning non-proliferation problems in the context of the terrorist threat.

With regard to technical assistance, we shall continue the work on country assessments of assistance needs, bearing in mind the need to create an effective mechanism to share non-classified information with potential donors. The CTC intends to cooperate with the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the Group of Eight, and plans to discuss information exchanges with the Action Group that will open the way for the most effective use of the donor community. In order to build an effective and flexible system of technical assistance, the Committee is exploring new types of activities. The Committee will analyse the possibilities of establishing more effective contacts between the CTC and donor countries and organizations.

As provided for in resolution 1535 (2004), the Committee intends to begin preparations for its first visit to a Member State, subject to its consent, in order to engage in direct dialogue with its authorities in the context of ensuring effective monitoring of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). Such a mission is essential to the purpose of creating a climate of cooperation and of providing technical assistance based on more accurate assessments of countries' needs. We plan to invite representatives of participating international organizations to join the mission. Such monitoring missions could be instrumental in providing direct assistance, adjusted to identified needs.

Pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), the Committee will develop all necessary forms of direct dialogue with Member States seeking assistance in strengthening their capacities to combat terrorism. Along with traditional contacts between interested countries and the CTC's subcommittees, whereby countries may raise questions related to the letters sent by the CTC in response to their reports, we intend to explore new approaches to communicating with States. As Chairman of the Committee, I should like to take this opportunity to say that we would welcome messages sent to the CTC and its experts, Bureau, subcommittees, Vice-Chairmen and Chairman with proposals on how to improve its work, questions on participation and requests for donor assistance.

The CTC should not be viewed as some kind of inquisition. On the contrary, we deem it necessary to develop the friendliest relationships with States. The Russian Chair will attempt to ensure that cooperation between the CTC and States Members of the United Nations develops in the most effective manner and is open in nature. In keeping with the principle of transparency, the Chairman of the Committee will continue to hold briefings for interested delegations on the CTC's activities.

The development of cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations will remain a priority of the CTC's work. The League of Arab States has offered to host the Committee's next meeting with international organizations in Cairo later this year, and the Committee has accepted the offer. Following the approach agreed by the Committee and the procedures followed at previous such meetings, the CTC plans to start preparations for the meeting, to be held in November and December 2004. The meeting will be open to all States Members of the United Nations for participation as observers. We expect it to contribute to a focused and action-oriented dialogue with international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as regional States, on the main problems encountered in the practical implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and in international cooperation in combating terrorism.

We are open to criticism, suggestions and remarks from States members of the Security Council and other Members of the United Nations, which I am sure will contribute to the CTC's progress at the current stage of its revitalization. I invite participants to pose any questions they may have.

Mr. Danforth (United States of America): I am sure I join with all members in thanking Ambassador Konuzin for his report to us this morning and also in congratulating him and his staff on their work since assuming the chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in May.

I would also like to welcome Javier Rupérez, the Executive Director of the newly established Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), to his first Council meeting. The establishment of that body marks a watershed moment in the Council's effort to deal with the menacing threat to international peace and security that is terrorism.

The global campaign against terrorism remains the highest of priorities for my Government. The United States is committed to seeing that the United Nations continues to play an important role in this area, and my Government is working to find ways to enhance the United Nations effectiveness. It will require a team effort to defeat the scourge of terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Committee has been a valuable member of that team. Through its capacity-building work and its global coordination initiatives, the Committee has helped to energize member States and organizations around the world to make the fight against terrorism more of a priority, be it through the adoption of new or the improvement of existing counter-terrorism laws or enforcement mechanisms.

As a result of its work, more organizations and countries have joined the counter-terrorism team. Nevertheless, much work remains to be done. For example, while we have seen a significant increase in the number of States that have become parties to the 12 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, there are still too many that have failed to take action in this area. Some 40 States are parties to fewer than half of those instruments. This suggests a lack of urgency in fighting terrorism and weakens international solidarity.

Although the CTC has received more than 500 reports from member States, compliance with resolution 1373 (2001) requires much more than the submission of reports. Compliance requires action on various fronts — the legislative, the regulatory and the operational. The CTC needs to do a better job of reinforcing that point, both in New York and in capitals. Perhaps the clearest indication of just how much more needs to be done is the number of major terrorist attacks since the CTC opened its doors for business in October 2001. Simply put, the terrorists and their supporters have continued to strike, be it in Bali, Moscow, Casablanca, Riyadh, Baghdad, Mombassa, Istanbul, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem or Madrid. Terrorism has not been defeated, raising the spectre of further deadly attacks on innocent victims and continuing threats to international peace and security.

The Council established the CTED to strengthen the CTC and provide it with additional tools and resources. Now we must work to ensure that the CTED becomes operational as quickly as possible. The CTED will enable the CTC to be more proactive, to reach out in different ways to States and organizations and to encourage more of them to become full partners on the counter-terrorism team. Through field visits to different States, it will be able to help the CTC assess on-the-ground efforts to implement the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001), thus moving beyond the current focus on written reports. This is essential if the CTC eventually hopes to gather enough information to determine which States are in compliance with the resolution.

In addition, we encourage those States that have asked for technical assistance to consider requesting a visit from the CTC and the CTED. Even with the work of those bodies and that of the Council's other counter-terrorism body, the Al Qaeda-Taliban sanctions Committee, the Council itself must remain at the forefront of the global campaign to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism. It must act with a sense of urgency, as though the events of 11 March 2004 and 11 September 2001 had taken place yesterday, not months or years ago. It must never forget that, so long as a few States are not acting quickly enough to raise their capacity to fight terrorism or are not meeting their international counter-terrorism obligations, all of us remain vulnerable.

The Council must be prepared to live up to its responsibility under the United Nations Charter to maintain international peace and security.

Mr. Muñoz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I should like to express my gratitude for the comprehensive briefing given us by Ambassador Alexander Konuzin, in his capacity as Chairman of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), concerning the activities of the Committee, and also for his presentation of the twelfth work programme from the period from July to September, which we fully support.

The CTC has this year, through its revitalization, entered into a new and special phase, aimed at enhancing its working capacity and at tackling the challenges relating to the full implementation by Member States of resolution 1373 (2001). Last March we supported the proposals to revitalize the Committee and voted in favour of resolution 1535 (2004). In the light of the information we have received today, we are pleased to see that the consensus will of the members of the Council has gradually been translated into reality. Proof of this is our welcoming today of Ambassador Javier Rupérez, who has been appointed Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. We wish him every success in his work, and we assure him of the fullest support of the Chilean delegation as he carries out his important functions.

As regards the achievement of the objectives set out in the most recent three-month work programme, we welcome the Committee's capacity for self-criticism, as reflected in the report, and also the plainly stated intention and resolve to modify certain procedures that will in future make possible the full achievement of the goals that have been set in the area of the verification and monitoring of the implementation by States of the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). In that vein, we deem very important the work done so far with respect to the scheduling and organization of the work of the CTED.

Along those lines, and in keeping with the mandate of the sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al Qaeda and the Taliban, which I am chairing, and determined to enhance the cooperation between that Committee and the CTC, we have, in recent days, held an informal meeting between the Chairmen of both Committees to discuss and examine ways and means of exploring and establishing new areas of cooperation and coordination between them.

As Ambassador Konuzin has said, these include in particular the intention of holding regular meetings, as part of our usual programme of work, among the two Chairmen and among the experts charged with dealing with those issues. We have also considered the possibility of the Chairmen of the Committees' participating in one another's meetings. We have also looked at ways of promoting and fostering contacts between the Monitoring Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and the Panel of Experts of the CTC, so as to exchange information and share experiences, in accordance with the rules of procedures of both Committees and the agreements adopted therein.

We have also looked at ways of passing on the information that the Al Qaeda Committee regularly receives with respect to the need for technical assistance, which is gathered during contact visits by the States holding the chairmanship and the members of the 1267 Committee. In short, we have looked at ways of enhancing cooperation between the two bodies, and we will continue to do so in future.

I should also like to say that combating terrorism involves constancy, dedication and perseverance in our cooperation efforts in order to achieve our objectives, as well as integration of efforts and actions — all of this in the context of the work of the Security Council committees on this issue, in particular in the CTC. All of this has led to some important achievements.

However, as was recently stated in the Council, terrorism still poses a major threat to international peace and security. This is clear, as we learn daily of new terrorist acts being perpetrated in various parts of the world, in both developed and developing countries. Therefore we need to uphold the Council's goal of continuing to combat this grave threat. This can be achieved only through the necessary and fundamental cooperation of States and of the competent organizations.

For that reason, it is necessary and timely to reiterate our appeal to those States that are not yet parties to international conventions relating to counter-terrorism to do so, and to enact the necessary legislation to implement them, and also, as regards the Committee that I have the honour to chair, they must comply with the sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

Lastly, bearing in mind the renewed efforts made by the Security Council this year to combat terrorism — as evidenced by the adoption of resolution 1526 (2004) aimed at strengthening the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al Qaeda and the Taliban; resolution 1535 (2004), which set up the Executive Directorate of the CTC; and resolution 1540 (2004) on non-State actors and weapons of mass destruction — we, as the international community, must remain committed to this effort and take this opportunity to move forward in the combat against terrorism. In that way we will help ensure that the people of all States can live in peace, in adequate security, with respect for human, individual and collective rights, and in full adherence to the rule of law.

Mr. Baja (Philippines): I should first like to extend our congratulations to Ambassador Konuzin for chairing the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and to Ambassador Rupérez on his appointment as Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). I wish also to thank Ambassador Konuzin for his comprehensive report on the activities of the CTC.

We welcome this opportunity for the Council to take stock of its counter-terrorism efforts through the CTC. The adoption of resolution 1535 (2004) proves that the Council is sensitive to the need, and is willing to accept change, to improve its efforts in the area of counter-terrorism.

We express appreciation for the draft plan that Ambassador Rupérez has prepared for the organization of the CTED, and for his openness to views and suggestions regarding the plan.

I would like to make two comments. First, the report states that 71 countries have not met the deadline for the submission of their respective reports. That is a matter for concern. That phenomenon must be examined as a serious symptom of a possible bigger problem. When 71 of 191 members are lagging behind in complying with Council-imposed deadlines, we should ask why. We should determine the cause of this acute problem and find a remedy for it.

Do those States required more technical assistance than the CTC is able to facilitate? Has the CTC system of monitoring compliance with reports and letters reached the point of diminishing returns? Do we need to consider putting greater emphasis on other types of engagement with other States, such as direct dialogue, as the Chairman has suggested? Or, more ominously, do States have issues with the legitimacy of the methods of the CTC such that they are now deciding to ignore them?

The second point concerns the relationship between counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights. We reiterate our view that there is a need to incorporate human rights concerns into the global counter-terrorism struggle. Counter-terrorism measures could pose dangers to established human rights protections. Rights violations could undermine the success of counter-terrorism efforts in countries. We hope that the CTED and the CTC will add a human rights component to their structure and their methods.

The global effort against terrorism requires the Security Council and the rest of the Members of the United Nations to remain committed partners to both concerns if success is to be achieved in eradicating the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Pleuger (Germany): We thank the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), Ambassador Konuzin, for his detailed and substantial report. My delegation would like to join others in congratulating him — as well as his team — on having taken up his important office.

We also welcome the presence of the new Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Ambassador Javier

Rupérez. He will, in our view, play a crucial role in setting up the CTC's new support structure in the months to come. We would like to assure him of our full support in that important and difficult task. We are confident that he will always be guided by the CTC's key objective, that is, to enhance the ongoing dialogue with all United Nations Member States in the spirit of cooperation, transparency and even-handedness.

In addition to improving the CTC's operative structures, the ongoing revitalization must preserve and further strengthen the CTC's legitimacy in the perception of all United Nations Member States. We are therefore looking forward to seeing an expert on human rights and the rule of law included in the senior staff of the Executive Directorate. In this respect we fully share the views just expressed by Ambassador Baja.

The Executive Directorate will also offer increased possibilities for further intensifying the CTC's cooperation and coordination with other United Nations bodies, in particular with the Al Qaeda and Taliban sanctions Committee.

Important steps have already been taken in that respect by the two Committees: by the two Chairmen and by the current expert teams. We feel that they all deserve our full recognition, and we will continue to support the improvement of their important work.

Let me conclude by affirming that Germany fully subscribes to the statement to be made later by Ambassador van den Berg on behalf of the Dutch presidency of the European Union.

Mr. Chaudhry (Pakistan): We congratulate the Russian Federation on having assumed the chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), thank the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Arias, for his outstanding contribution, and welcome Ambassador Rupérez, the new Executive Director of the CTC Executive Directorate (CTED).

We would also like to thank Ambassador Konuzin for having presented to the Council the twelfth work programme (see S/2004/541), and to express appreciation for his leadership role in guiding the work of the CTC.

The CTC is going through a transitional phase aimed at its revitalization. We look forward to the finalization of the organizational plan of the CTED. In that regard, we share the view that the Committee will need to maintain a balance between reform efforts and its short-term activities. We agree with the need, as expressed by the Chairman, for the Committee to play a more active role in coordinating the provision of technical assistance. In that context, the integration of the analysis of country assessments of assistance needs into the review process should be done in an objective manner.

On the question of reporting, while emphasizing the need for the timely submission of reports, the Committee should also try to address issues such as reporting fatigue, technical capacity for rendering such reports and other areas on which Ambassador Baja also touched.

We have noted the efforts of the Chairman to pursue closer coordination with other United Nations structures dealing with various aspects of counter-terrorism. However, we understand that such coordination will be pursued within the respective mandates of the Committee and other United Nations structures.

We have noted the Committee's intention to begin preparations for the first visit by the CTC to a Member State, subject to its consent. Such visits should lead to the creation of a climate of cooperation and to the provision of technical assistance, as pointed out by the Chairman in his statement today.

We support activities aimed at improving communication between the Committee and Member States so as to enhance the capacity of States to fight terrorism more effectively. We also share the view that the Committee needs to improve its communication methods to promote transparency and avoid misperceptions about its work. We look forward to the meeting of the CTC with international, regional and subregional organizations to be hosted by the League of Arab States later this year.

Mr. King (United Kingdom): We are grateful to you, Mr. President, for having convened this meeting, and to the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) for his briefing.

Like others, we would like to take this opportunity to offer our best wishes to the new Chairman of the CTC, Ambassador Konuzin of Russia, and to the new Executive Director of the CTC Executive Directorate, Ambassador Rupérez. The United Kingdom subscribes to the statement to be

made shortly by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union.

The threat of terrorism remains as acute today as it has ever been. Terrorists are tireless in their pursuit of impossible goals. They know no distinctions of race, religion or geography. They are united in the disdain they show for innocent life. So, we must be united in combating terrorism — from tackling terrorist funding to tackling the resentments that encourage terrorism.

Since its creation, the CTC has achieved a good deal. It has helped build unity among States in the fight against terrorism. It has helped sustain the momentum of the international community's efforts to implement resolution 1373 (2001). It has made States accountable for their counter-terrorism efforts and, crucially, it has assisted States in those efforts. But more needs to be done, and, frankly speaking, there has been a sense that activity has been levelling off a little as time has gone on.

So now we need to exploit the appointment of the new Executive Director and the reinforcement of the CTC Executive Directorate to take activity to a new level. We should take this opportunity to review how the CTC works. It should maintain the best traditions of efficiency and effectiveness; it should continue to promote transparency, equal treatment and cooperation with regional organizations. And the new structure should also enable it to develop stronger links with other parts of the United Nations system — notably the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights — allowing the CTC to draw them more closely into its work and to draw on their expertise, authority and contacts. The CTC should continue and develop its close cooperation with the Al Qaeda and Taliban sanctions Committee.

It is also right that we take this opportunity to review what the CTC should do. We should look at what more the CTC could do to provide technical expertise to Member States. We welcome plans for an additional effort to build links with potential donors of assistance and better to match Member States' needs and requirements with available assistance. The CTC should continue to produce focused, proportional judgements, building on appropriate reporting requirements of Member States. And we should look at the possibility of regional reporting returns so that some smaller States could focus scarce resources on implementation rather than on reporting requirements. As a number of speakers have already noted this morning, we should also look again at how best to work with, and deal with, those who have not reported or responded to the CTC. That will be a key issue for the next period.

The bottom line is that terrorism remains an ongoing threat which no one can ignore. We must all play our part within and beyond the United Nations to reduce that risk.

Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like at the outset to express my appreciation for the detailed briefing presented by Ambassador Alexander Konuzin of the Russian Federation on behalf of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). I am pleased also to congratulate him on his election as Chairman of the Committee, a position he is assuming from my predecessor as Permanent Representative of Spain, Ambassador Inocencio Arias. I am very grateful for Ambassador Konuzin's comments on that subject. I am sure that, under such efficient leadership, the Committee will be able to effectively meet the challenges facing it.

I also wish to warmly welcome the first Executive Director of the CTC Executive Directorate, Ambassador Javier Rupérez. Not only is he a compatriot of mine and a colleague of many years' standing in the Spanish foreign service, but we also have shared ideals and aspirations in the fight for freedom, democracy and human rights and have worked together for peace and security in Europe and around the world. That is why we have every confidence in his effectiveness in his work, which will have the full support of my delegation and myself.

Spain attaches particular importance to these open Security Council debates as a mechanism for strengthening transparency, with which the Counter-Terrorism Committee has always carried out its work. That is why we welcome the continued holding of these debates, which provide the Committee and its member States with a platform from which to inform all United Nations Member States and the general public about its work, while providing non-Council-member States a forum in which to express to us their viewpoints on these matters. Therefore, I shall be very brief, precisely to expedite the exchange of views among all of us. I take this opportunity to say that we subscribe fully to the statement to be made shortly by

the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union.

My delegation joins Ambassador Konuzin in identifying three objectives, or immediate challenges, facing the Counter-Terrorism Committee. The first is strengthening the role played by the Committee with regard to technical assistance to States for implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) so that it can become a true global promoter and coordinator of such assistance. Among other things, that should be a concrete way to overcome the current situation, in which — as was been explained to us — as many as 71 countries have failed to submit their respective reports on time.

The second objective is preparing for the Committee's first visits to States that they deem it necessary to visit, with the consent of their respective Governments, to engage in direct dialogue with the competent authorities. That will enable us to verify effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) on the ground, to evaluate the nature of the causes that hamper such effective implementation and to identify possible needs or offers of technical assistance.

The last objective is strengthening the Committee's cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations whose experience with and diverse approaches to counter-terrorism are an essential contribution to ensuring that the Committee can properly monitor the effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). We believe that such inter-institutional cooperation should begin with better interaction and coordination with other United Nations structures involved in the fight against terrorism, first and foremost the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Precisely to assist the Committee as it faces those immediate challenges, Spain promoted a revitalization process that was ultimately reflected in Security Council resolution 1535 (2004), whose main result has been the creation of the Executive Directorate, headed by Ambassador Rupérez. My delegation wishes to congratulate him on the draft programme of work he has prepared for the Executive Directorate — a programme of work that we fully support. We hope that its provisions can be adopted and implemented as swiftly as possible so that the Executive Directorate can become operational very soon and so that the Committee's revitalization can begin to materialize. That will be the most effective way to attain the objectives set by the Security Council in the global fight against all forms of terrorism, which jeopardize international peace and security.

Mr. Zhang Yishan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): First of all, I should like to thank Ambassador Konuzin, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), for his briefing. With Ambassador Konuzin as Chairman, I believe we can have every confidence in the work done by the CTC. I support the points he made in his briefing.

I would like to make three very brief comments. First, we support reform of the CTC, and we welcome Ambassador Rupérez as the new Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). We hope that, through the efforts of the CTED and the Secretariat, the Directorate will soon get down to work.

Secondly, China supports the visit by the CTC to a Member State to gather information on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) in order to assess the need for assistance in combating terrorism. China hopes that the visit will help ease the burden on Member States in submitting their reports to the CTC by giving them more time to implement resolution 1373 (2001).

Thirdly, we greatly appreciate the offer by the League of Arab States to host what will be the fourth special meeting of the CTC with international, regional and subregional organizations. The League of Arab States' holding of the upcoming special meeting will be an opportunity to show the resolve of the Arab world to combine its efforts to combat terrorism and to demonstrate that all Member States share the common cause of combating terrorism. That can only be beneficial to the common cause of the international fight against terrorism. We are certain that the League of Arab States will duly complete the preparatory work that will make the event a success.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassador Alexander Konuzin for his excellent presentation of the 90-day work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and for his efforts to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate at a time of transition, when the Executive Directorate is being put into place. I take this opportunity once again to extend our congratulations to Mr. Javier Rupérez on

his appointment as Executive Director and to assure him of our full cooperation.

I would like briefly to underline a few elements of the programme of work under consideration that I consider to be important. First, we hope that the CTC will be able to meet the deadline for adopting the organizational plan of the Executive Directorate in order to submit it to the Security Council for approval. This will enable the new executive body to become operational and to carry out the tasks entrusted to it.

We also believe that it is highly desirable to maintain the cooperation between the CTC and the Al Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee and to develop new forms of such cooperation, while fully respecting the mandates of the two Committees.

We encourage the CTC to continue its work of assessing the assistance needs of countries. The visits of CTC experts to certain countries, with their consent and in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1535 (2004), will help to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and to establish direct dialogue with the Governments of the States concerned.

For that reason, we support and encourage the CTC as it begins preparations for the first of its intended visits. Those visits require good preparation and a clear and precise road map with respect to the objectives to be achieved. They respond to the CTC's wish to verify on the ground the implementation of the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001) and should be carried out without discrimination of any kind, in every region, regardless of civilization, cultural or religious background.

We note that 71 countries have failed to report in a timely fashion. We urge those countries to fulfil their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001), and we encourage the Committee to explore all ways and means of assisting those States so that they can submit their reports. In particular, the Committee should reflect on ways to communicate, engage in dialogue and interact with Member States in order to ensure their cooperation, rather then limiting interaction to the mere exchange of correspondence, which is starting to show its limitations.

We support the CTC in its preparatory efforts with the League of Arab States for the meeting, planned to be held in Cairo in December. The successful holding of that meeting would certainly send a strong signal from the international community with respect to the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): I would like to start by congratulating Ambassador Alexander Konuzin on assuming the chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee at a particularly delicate moment, when the revitalization process is under way. We also welcome and congratulate Ambassador Javier Rupérez on his appointment as Executive Director of the newly formed Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, which will be a central piece in the revitalization process that the Committee is going through. We assure Mr. Rupérez of our full cooperation and wish him every success in the discharge of his responsibilities.

My delegation took due note of the briefing to the Council by the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. In that connection, we would like briefly to underline three issues.

First, the process of revitalizing the CTC, to which the Security Council and the United Nations membership at large are committed, is intended to strengthen the prominent and central role of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism. It shows how Member States are determined to overcome any difficulty that might hinder universal implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

The report of the Chairman on difficulties encountered by the CTC and by States in implementing resolution 1373 (2001) (S/2004/70, annex); the report of the CTC on its revitalization (S/2004/124, annex); and the adoption of resolution 1535 (2004): all these reflect the international community's resolve to adapt the fight against terrorism to changing circumstances and its flexibility to adapt structures to make them best suited for effectively responding to such an enormous challenge.

Secondly, the twelfth work programme (S/2004/541, annex), presented by the CTC Chairman, shows how the CTC is beginning a new and important phase of its existence. It states that the main task for the current period of work is to render fully operational as soon as possible the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate established by resolution 1535 (2004), with a view — as stated in the CTC's report on its revitalization — to enabling the CTC to fulfil its mandate of monitoring implementation of resolution 1373 (2001),

facilitating technical assistance to Member States and promoting closer cooperation and coordination with international, regional and subregional organizations: functions which are crucial to the fight against terrorism and to the central role that the United Nations plays in that regard.

Thirdly, the briefing by the CTC refers to the need to change the approach to monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), which now relies on reports submitted by States, by integrating country assessments of assistance needs into the process of reviewing the reports as a means to develop practical cooperation with donor countries and to better adapt technical assistance efforts to the real needs of the countries. The fact that by 30 June 70 States had not met the deadline for the submission of their respective reports, and the fact that all of them are developing countries, is a clear demonstration of the urgent need to step up efforts to provide technical assistance to those countries, which are also the most vulnerable to the presence of terrorists and their acts.

We are pleased that the CTC, in its approach to revitalization, is looking for innovative ways so as to make technical assistance, capacity-building and the upgrading of States' anti-terrorist capabilities the main thrust of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. That is indeed a commendable development.

An important provision of resolution 1535 (2004) recognized the need for the Committee to visit States and to engage in a dialogue as part of the monitoring of the effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). We consider of very crucial importance the fact that the Committee has undertaken to develop all necessary forms of direct dialogue with the Member States seeking assistance in order to strengthen their capacity to combat terrorism.

In conclusion, we fully support the statement that the President will deliver as the outcome of this meeting. It clearly sets out the tasks ahead for the Committee, as well as those carried out in the quarterly period under consideration.

Mr. Sardenberg (Brazil): I would like to thank the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), Ambassador Konuzin, for his comprehensive presentation of the work of the Committee, as foreseen in resolution 1535 (2004). As a member of the Bureau of that Committee, I wish to associate myself with his words, which will help to shorten considerably my comments this morning. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Executive Director of the newly established Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Ambassador Javier Rupérez of Spain. I wish him well in his new job.

The most relevant challenge facing the CTC and the CTED is to persuade countries that it is in their own interest to take advantage of the various sources of cooperation made available to them. It is our view that, up to now, the potential for cooperation with the CTC is underused. It is not our objective this morning to exhaust the reasons why the results have been so, but one issue to which we would like to draw attention is the lack of stronger feedback mechanisms to ensure that the cooperation provided by third parties to countries and to the CTC is fully satisfactory.

We also wish to stress that the CTC and the CTED are structures designed mainly to shelter States that are willing to cooperate but, for various reasons, are unable to do so. We would therefore like to reiterate that the CTC and, by extension, the CTED, is neither a sanctions committee nor a court of justice — not even a police precinct. The work of the Committee is to be carried out within the limits foreseen in resolution 1373 (2001) and 1535 (2004).

The sense of ownership of what is being done by the Committee should be strengthened among other United Nations members. In that regard, the establishment of direct contact with Member States in fulfilment of the work of the Committee is a most useful working method. We especially welcome all efforts to bring transparency to the work of the CTC. When it comes to cooperation, creative solutions are always in order.

In conclusion, I wish to note that the repudiation of terrorist acts is one of the guiding principles of Brazilian foreign policy. We are of the view that the fight against terrorism is to be conducted within the requirements of due process, human rights and civil liberties.

The President: At this stage, I wish to make a brief statement in my national capacity.

I would like to join others in thanking Ambassador Konuzin for his highly informative and comprehensive presentation, in congratulating him for his assumption of the chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and in wishing

him every success in his undertaking. I would also like to welcome the presence here of the newly appointed Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Ambassador Javier Rupérez, to whom I wish every success in his work.

As Romania aligns itself with the statement to be delivered shortly by Ambassador van den Berg of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union, I will confine myself only to a few brief comments.

Following the adoption of resolution 1535 (2004), through which the CTED was established, the CTC has now entered into a transitional phase that will end at the moment the CTED becomes fully operational. It is of the utmost importance that the CTC continue to work at the same pace throughout that period, while also continuing to adapt itself to the new dynamics of the global fight against terrorism.

As the CTC's ability to monitor the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) remains an essential prerequisite to effectively combating terrorism, we note with concern that many States are still facing significant difficulties in fully implementing resolution 1373 (2001). One relevant indicator in that respect is the continuously increasing number of States that are late in submitting their reports. It is for that reason that we believe that effectively addressing countries' assistance needs — including through a more practically oriented dialogue with both the donor community and interested States — should be one of the Committee's top priorities.

We recognize the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the CTC and international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as with other United Nations bodies. We welcome the active approach adopted by the new Chairman of the CTC in that regard. For Romania's part, I would like to assure Ambassador Konuzin of our full readiness to discuss, in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), possible synergies between our two Committees. Given the fact that the 1540 Committee is still in the process of launching its activities, such a step could be considered at a later stage.

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to express my delegation's full support for the work Ambassador Rupérez has already undertaken in putting in place the new structure. We stand ready to bring our active contribution to the finalization of the organizational plan of the Executive Directorate of the CTC and to its timely endorsement by the Council.

I now resume my function as President of the Security Council.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of the Netherlands. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. van den Berg (Netherlands): I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries of Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro; and the European Free Trade Association countries of Norway and Iceland, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

The European Union (EU) wishes to express its appreciation for the briefing provided to us this morning by Ambassador Konuzin, the new Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), whom we greet and congratulate on his election. We are confident that, with Russia as Chair, effective coordination of the CTC will continue. Furthermore, we are pleased to greet the new Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Javier Rupérez. The European Union also thanks Ambassador Arias for his able chairmanship of the CTC during the 13 months of its work.

The European Union attaches great importance to these periodic open debates and we are happy that this tradition is being continued under the new leadership and management. The regular open debates help to maintain and strengthen the general acceptance and legitimacy of the CTC within the United Nations family. We are also pleased to note that Ambassador Konuzin has continued the informal briefings for member States, the first of which took place on 2 July. This possibility for direct questions and answers is much appreciated. The Chairman was perfectly right in affirming that transparency should continue to be a hallmark of the work of the Committee.

Today's meeting deals with the Committee's work programme for the twelfth 90-day period, which covers

the months from July to September 2004. The European Union welcomes this document as part of the process of revitalization of the CTC pursuant to Security Council resolution 1535 (2004).

The Executive Director will soon submit the organizational plan for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. It is good to learn from the work programme that this will happen through the Secretary-General. That is important to show that the revitalization process should honour the Secretary-General in his role as the chief administrative officer of the Organization.

As the European Union considers respect for human rights and the rule of law to be a fundamental condition for overcoming the scourge of terrorism, we hope to see a human rights expert included in the Executive Directorate. Furthermore, the European Union welcomes the further strengthening of cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established under Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al Qaeda and the Taliban. We also hope that such a strengthening of cooperation will extend to other parts of the United Nations system involved in counter-terrorism, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The European Union supports your call, Sir, to all States that have not submitted their reports on time to do so as soon as possible. The number of 71 States missing deadlines means that more than one third of the membership is lagging behind. We must maintain the universality and the speed of the response which resolution 1373 (2001) requires.

We encourage the Committee and its Executive Directorate to enhance their dialogue with member States with a view to approaching our common goal to fully and universally implement resolution 1373 (2001). The European Council is squarely behind those efforts and has appointed an EU counter-terrorism coordinator. Combating terrorism is now fully integrated into the external relations policy of the EU and a key element in the EU political dialogue with other States. Particular emphasis is put on ratification without reservation and effective implementation of the relevant international conventions and protocols related to terrorism and preventing the financing of terrorism. Emphasis is also put on addressing other factors that may contribute to the fight against terrorism, such as non-proliferation and arms control. We applaud the new energy the CTC is willing to put into that effort to make the relevant conventions and protocols universal and we look forward to enhancing its results by our own contribution. The CTC objectives in this field are our own.

The European Union understands that the CTC is in transition and that this has led to a slow-down in the review of reports. We hope and trust that, with an extended staff of experts, the CTC will be able to accelerate its work. More staff should also allow for better assessing the assistance needs of those countries that have the sincere political will to fully implement resolution 1373 (2001) but lack the proper tools to do so. We share the Chairman's view that review and remedy should be more effectively linked.

In this context, the European Union would welcome a more proactive role of the CTC in the field of technical assistance. We would welcome more direct dialogue and information exchange with both the States in need of assistance and the donor community, including close dialogue and cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the G-8.

Direct dialogue and information exchange on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) as such are also essential and we are convinced that such dialogue and exchange could be enhanced by in-country visits made by the CTC to States with the concerned State's consent. The first such visit by the CTC to a State with its consent, as envisaged in the new work programme, is important to mention in this respect.

We commend the fact that the League of Arab States has offered to co-host, jointly with the CTC, the fourth special meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) in Cairo later this year. A focused and action-oriented dialogue at that event should provide a useful follow-up to the three previous similar meetings.

Finally, allow me to make a pitch for the seminar that the EU presidency is planning to organize on 22 September in Brussels on ways to combat the financing of terrorism. We will concentrate on various issues, such as alternative remittance systems, money laundering and national and regional implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). We stand ready to inform those interested.

The President: The next speaker is the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Atieh (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you, Sir, on presiding over the Security Council this month. We also wish to thank the Permanent Representative of the Philippines and his mission staff for their successful leadership of the Council last month.

My delegation also takes this opportunity to congratulate the representative of the Russian Federation, Mr. Alexander Konuzin, on his chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001). We thank him for his detailed and comprehensive briefing this morning, in which he provided the Committee's programme of work for the next 90-day period.

We also congratulate Ambassador Javier Rupérez of Spain on his appointment as Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate.

My delegation commends the work and efforts of the CTC during the period under consideration. The Committee strove tirelessly to enhance the capacities of member States to align their national legislations with the requirements and provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). My delegation also welcomes the Committee's work in creating an open and ongoing dialogue on cooperation and transparency in order to increase the counter-terrorism capacities of member States. In that respect, we commend the interactive and genuine relationship between the Committee and international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as the enhanced contacts with such organizations. We welcome specifically the Committee's acceptance of the League of Arab States' proposal to host the fourth special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with regional and subregional organizations, to be held in Cairo later this year, provided that such a meeting is held in accordance with applicable procedures for such meetings.

My delegation welcomes the establishment of the CTC Executive Directorate, which will work in cooperation with the newly appointed Executive Director and the Secretariat to enable this new organ to begin work as soon as possible. We note in the Committee's work schedule the fact that it will consider the organizational plan to be submitted by the Executive Director. In that respect, we are confident that members of the Council will discuss the plan in detail to ensure that it is in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, other principles of the Organization and the mandate of the Committee. We also hope that they will discuss its financial aspects in the light of the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations.

International terrorism has reached a very dangerous stage, and combating it requires coordinated international efforts. To uproot it, we must seriously address its causes and roots. Such an approach should be implemented objectively, without any double standard, so as to promote international peace and security on the basis of the purposes and principles of the Charter.

The threat posed by terrorism increases if weapons of mass destruction are involved, and that is why my country has called on the international community to fight both in parallel. As an expression of good faith, my country submitted, during its term as a non-permanent member of the Council, a draft resolution on behalf of the Arab Group calling for making the Middle East a region free from all weapons of mass destruction, with no exceptions for any country in the region. That draft resolution is still before the Council, and we truly hope that it will be unanimously adopted as soon as possible in view of its importance, particularly in the light of the challenges and dangers threatening our world today.

In conclusion, I should like to stress once again my country's support for the CTC and for all sincere international efforts to realize the lofty objective of the international community: to combat terrorism and thereby help to realize humanity's aspiration to peace and security.

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Liechtenstein, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): It is a great pleasure, Sir, to see you preside over the Council's meeting this morning. At the outset, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Konuzin on his assumption of the chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and to convey to him our best wishes in the discharge of his important task. We thank him in

particular for having upheld the principle of transparency during his first weeks in that position, and we are thankful for his intention to continue regularly to brief interested Member States on the work of the Committee.

Our congratulations also go to Ambassador Rupérez in his capacity as the new Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) Executive Directorate. We are confident that Ambassador Rupérez will provide the new, enhanced structure with the necessary leadership, and we pledge our full support in that respect. We look forward to receiving the forthcoming organizational plan for the CTC Executive Directorate, and we hope that the Committee will soon be in a position to move on from the transitional arrangements to the new structure, in order to deal with the challenges lying ahead.

We continue to believe that the CTC's greatest strength lies in the field of the coordination of technical assistance, thereby complementing the substantial efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, based in Vienna. As the Committee is making preparations and arrangements for a first State visit, it is important to underline the consensual nature of such technical assistance, as well as the need for a balanced approach integrating human rights concerns. While assessing the assistance needs of States and advising them on necessary action, the CTC and its experts should always be aware, and also actively raise awareness of, the fact that, in the fight against terrorism, respect for human rights and the rule of law is not an impediment to its success, but a necessary precondition.

It is thus crucial that, in the upcoming recruitment process within the Executive Directorate, due consideration be given to any relevant human rights experience of future staff members. We also hope that the new arrangements will include an institutionalized liaison with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in line with resolution 1535 (2004).

In recent months, the Council has stepped up its efforts to deal with the activities of non-State actors that are determined and have the capability to threaten international peace and security. The strengthening of the CTC through the establishment of its new Executive Directorate, including a strong increase in expert capacity; the strengthening of the sanctions regime against Al Qaeda and the Taliban, in resolution 1526 (2004); and the adoption of new measures on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of non-State actors, in resolution 1540 (2004), bear witness to the renewed commitment of Member States to prevent indiscriminate and terrorist attacks against their populations.

Those efforts, however, need to be accompanied by improved coordination between the Committees and expert bodies involved, in order to use the available resources in the most efficient manner possible and not to overburden the administrative resources of Member States. Such synergetic effects are especially pertinent between the CTC and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al Qaeda and the Taliban, as both Committees have developed outstanding capacity and expertise over the last two years.

The consideration of States' reports remains an important pillar of the CTC's work. Liechtenstein is one of the 40-odd countries which have already submitted their fourth report to the Committee. We are thus aware of the considerable burden that increasing reporting requirements place on Member States and on small States in particular. While we encourage the Council and its various sub-organs to take such restraints into account, especially in the adoption of new reporting requirements, States themselves can also take measures to render reporting on interrelated topics more efficient.

The Liechtenstein Government recently adopted a basic document on facts and figures covering Liechtenstein's political, legal, economic and social characteristics, as well as the general framework of international cooperation within which Liechtenstein operates in countering terrorism, crime and money-laundering. Such a basic core document can serve as a point of reference for various reporting requirements and thus considerably alleviate the burden placed on administrations.

Finally, let me once again express Liechtenstein's commitment to international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and to cooperation with the Council, the CTC and other relevant United Nations bodies in this field.

The President: I thank the representative of Liechtenstein for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Indonesia. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Atlyanto (Indonesia): I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the convening of this open meeting of the Security Council to review the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) over the past three months. We would like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Konuzin, Chairman of the CTC, for his briefing on the Committee's work programme. We would also like to welcome and congratulate Ambassador Javier Rupérez on his appointment as Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

We note the Committee's twelfth 90-day work programme, which will run from July to September 2004. It is our belief that the work programme will continue to enhance the effectiveness of our counter-terrorism measures. In this connection, Indonesia supports measures intended to enhance the counter-terrorism capability of States requesting aid and reiterates the importance of cooperation and coordination by United Nations Member States in capacity-building for those States that need assistance.

Allow me to provide an update on Indonesia's continuing efforts in combating international terrorism, especially in our region, since the previous CTC meeting. On 3 July 2004, President Megawati Soekarnoputri inaugurated the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation. The establishment of the Centre was an important follow-up to the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism that was held on 4 and 5 February 2004, under the co-chairmanship of the Indonesian and Australian Governments.

The key objective of the Centre is to enhance the operational expertise of regional law-enforcement personnel in dealing with transnational crime, with the primary focus on enhancing counter-terrorism skills. The Centre will seek to strengthen cooperation among regional police forces, drawing upon the experience of Indonesia and Australia in law-enforcement cooperation. While it is conceived as a bilateral initiative, we welcome participation and contributions by other countries and international organizations supportive of the goals of the Centre.

Another follow-up of the Bali Ministerial Meeting was the establishment of two ad hoc working groups of senior legal officials and law-enforcement practitioners in the region. The working group of senior legal officials will report back to ministers on the adequacy of regional legal frameworks for counter-terrorism cooperation and assistance. The working group will hold its first meeting on 4 and 5 August 2004 in Canberra. The ad hoc working group of law-enforcement practitioners will formulate best-practice models for fighting terrorism, develop a more effective information base and facilitate the more effective flow of intelligence on criminal activity. The ad hoc working group will have its first meeting on 12 and 13 August 2004 in Bali, Indonesia.

Finally, I would like to stress the conviction of Indonesia that terrorism is the problem of every nation, and that we can best fight and vanquish the menace through multidimensional and multilateral approaches on the basis of international cooperation, collaboration and dialogue among all States. Indonesia is one such party and we stand ready, as we have in the past, to take the necessary measures and to work with other States and organizations to ensure that terrorists run out of room to hide and that terrorism is defeated.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Israel. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Mekel (Israel): Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of July, and to express our appreciation to your predecessor in that position. I would also like to warmly welcome the Russian chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and, in particular, Ambassador Konuzin. I welcome also Ambassador Rupérez as the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). I assure you, Sir, of Israel's readiness to do its utmost to assist in advancing our common counter-terrorism agenda.

Since its establishment, the CTC has faced the challenge of formulating a clear standard of international activity against terrorism. While it has not been easy, we are now beginning to see the positive fruits of those labours.

For Israel, the past few years have challenged us to identify our place in the global counter-terrorism effort and to find ways in which our unfortunately

extensive experience in combating terrorism can be of benefit to others. We are encouraged by the increasing number of countries seeking to ally themselves with us in this context, and we hope, too, to be able to make a visibly greater contribution to the CTC. To this end, we are looking forward to participating in the CTC's meeting with international organizations, scheduled for the fall. Another way in which Israel could contribute successfully to the CTC would be through the inclusion of Israeli experts within its efforts.

Like a disease, terrorism spreads quietly and erupts with deadly effect. Like a disease, it cannot be successfully fought with partial measures but must be combated as a whole. It must be faced with steely resolve and unblinking determination. Terrorism is a network, interconnected and often global. It must be fought as such. Terror anywhere in the world should be acknowledged for what it is and dealt with accordingly. Left to breathe, abandoned to fester or immorally discounted as someone else's problem, it only strengthens into an undertow that will inevitably re-emerge from the depths.

As the international community has recognized, there is no cause or grievance that justifies terrorism. There is no such thing as good terrorism and bad terrorism.

Unfortunately, Israel knows this all too well, for Israel too often finds itself on the frontline of the international war on terror. Israel knows the pain and devastation that terror wreaks because, although we wish it were not so, Israel sees it first-hand on an almost constant basis. We are keenly aware of the excruciating dilemmas democracies in particular face in confronting an enemy with no respect for life and no respect for law. Through this agonizing and ongoing experience, Israel has learned a great deal.

We understand that alongside the success in international counter-terrorism that the CTC and the global community have enjoyed, it is also undeniable that we increasingly face a dangerous proliferation of terrorism. Terrorism is not just a scattered collection of individuals, domestic organizations or regional networks. It is a frantic octopus sending its deadly tentacles in all directions. This creature is becoming increasingly sophisticated in initiating joint ventures, sharing methods and moving investment capital to where it is needed to be the most lethal. It is constantly refining its practices and strategies, strengthening the logistics of mass murder.

As this network adapts, so must we. We must anticipate new directions that terror will take, and we must cut them off. As terror changes, we must change with it. We cannot fight future battles based solely on past experiences; on the contrary, we must pay careful attention to emerging trends. The fact that terrorists bombed military installations did not mean that they would not attack skyscrapers. Because they attacked skyscrapers did not mean that they would not bomb subways. Because they bomb subways does not mean that they will not attempt to devastate cities with chemical weapons.

We must listen to terrorists' stated intentions. We must not underestimate their objectives or their means. We must take them at their words, and we must never discount the horrors of which they are capable. They do not play by the rules of civilized society, and to expect them to do so is to be constantly caught by terrible surprise.

One example of this concept is the issue of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS). This is a danger that Israel has experienced intimately, and it is one on which much work is still to be done. While Israel applauds the progress made by organizations such as the Group of Eight and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe regarding MANPADS, this body still needs to address the issue in an operative manner. As Israel has cautioned before, this is a terror trend that, although it has not yet caused the great number of deaths of which it is capable, unquestionably has the potential to turn our skies into vast killing fields. Anyone who ever flies on a commercial jetliner anywhere in the world has reason to fear the ease of proliferation and use of MANPADS and the tremendous danger that they hold. Israel urges this body to take the concrete steps necessary to understand and eliminate this menace.

Another problem requiring immediate attention is the phenomenon of States harbouring terrorists. Terrorism, as I have said, is a truly global threat transcending the borders of States and the very idea of sovereignty. At the same time, however, it is anchored geographically and spatially, and States that harbour the culprits of international terror before, during or after their atrocious activities have themselves become an integral part of the terrorist enterprise. As many

States have said before in the Council, the international community's counter-terrorism campaign is only as strong as its weakest link. If any segment of our defence is deficient, the whole will suffer. This body should demand that States that harbour terrorists desist from doing so. It should name and shame them, and it should cooperate with international initiatives to fight terrorism in all its incarnations and in every locality.

A further demand to States should be an end to incitement. Incitement is not just an integral part of the terrorist infrastructure; it is its engine, and we must react to it accordingly. States that allow and even encourage their media to incite terrorism through hate-filled propaganda or that tolerate the extremist teachings of educational and spiritual leaders not only violate basic human rights obligations; they breed the next generation of terrorists, and they provide fuel to the fire of terrorism. They ensure that the years ahead will be even more dangerous than the years that have passed. The violence manifested in terror is immoral and deadly, and everything that provides its foundations is equally so. If terror is to end, incitement must end as well. We must hold those who support or tolerate it accountable, and we must work to replace it with a culture of tolerance and mutual respect.

Israel believes that if all States confront terror directly and without compromise, it can be defeated. The threat of terrorism anywhere is a threat to nations everywhere. Its branches must be severed and its roots must be destroyed. This is a struggle we can and will win. Israel commends the dedication and noble desires of the CTC and looks forward to doing all it can to aid in this crucial endeavour.

The President: I thank the representative of Israel for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Japan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kitaoka (Japan): The work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is a matter of great interest to all Member States of the United Nations, and I therefore would like to express our appreciation to you, Mr. President, and to the rest of the Security Council for providing interested States other than members with the opportunity to speak today.

I would first like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Arias, former Chairman of the CTC, for his distinguished service. I wish to congratulate Mr. Konuzin on assuming office as the new Chairman of the CTC and to thank him for his detailed presentation on the recent work of the CTC. I also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Rupérez on taking up the post of Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, (CTED) established in accordance with Security Council resolution 1535 (2004). There can never be any justification whatsoever for terrorism, which takes the lives of innocent people, and we expect the CTC, under its new Chairman, and the CTED, under its Executive Director, to provide the international community with the leadership it needs to respond with effective counter-terrorism measures.

I would like to make three points.

First, I wish to emphasize the importance of assistance for capacity-building. Providing assistance to enhance a Member State's counter-terrorism capacity not only helps to prevent acts of terrorism on its territory and to contribute to its security and development, but also contributes to maintaining the security and prosperity of the neighbouring States and of the region as a whole. For recipient States, establishing counter-terrorism measures and preventing terrorism are also important preconditions for development. We appreciate the priority that the CTC places on technical assistance. We hope that the CTC might at the same time endeavour, through its planned visits, to promote actual, appropriate technical assistance projects.

We also believe that it is important for Member States to share information on terrorism. Through the Secure and Facilitated International Travel Initiative, announced at the Group of Eight (G-8) Summit Meeting in June this year, G-8 members will raise standards, modernize procedures and exchange information in order to deter threats, reduce costs and help to ensure the safe and efficient movement of passengers and cargo. Taking into account that such international cooperation is being undertaken, we think it would be worthwhile for the CTC also to consider setting up a forum for the CTC and other interested Member States to conduct a joint study on more effective counter-terrorism measures.

My Government provides counter-terrorism assistance, especially to the countries of South-East

Asia, and it intends to strengthen such efforts. We are placing particular priority on three areas: capacity-building of law-enforcement organizations, preventing the movement of terrorists across borders through stricter immigration control and promoting accession to counter-terrorism-related international treaties and protocols. We also intend to continue our cooperation with counter-terrorism measures through official development assistance and other means. For example, Japan recently decided to grant approximately $6.8 million to Indonesia in order to improve security at its airports and seaports. Also, in June this year my Government hosted the Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting in Tokyo with a view to building cooperative relations among agencies and enabling them to share information on maritime security in the Asian region.

Next, in relation to my first point — the importance of capacity-building — we need to put more effort into preventive measures. If the terrorists of today have a weakness, it is the routes they use to procure weapons and funds, which we can cut off. To do that, however, it is necessary to put in place preventive measures based on international cooperation. In that regard, it is becoming more important to raise standards with regard to the capabilities of States to combat terrorism by providing assistance for capacity-building. I wish to inform the Council that this month, together with the Malaysian Government, my Government hosted a seminar on the prevention of terrorism employing chemical weapons and managing crises in which they are used. It was the first cooperative programme of the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Malaysia.

Third, my Government has high expectations for the organizational plan, which is expected to be submitted to the CTC by the end of this month, as its implementation will strengthen the counter-terrorism function of the CTC. On the other hand, upon the establishment of the new structure, we request that the Executive Director of the CTED and the CTC create an efficient organization, one that avoids waste. We wish to reiterate that although Japan supports the revitalization of the CTC, that does not mean that expenditures for such purposes should be allowed to grow unrestrained. We also request that steps be taken to ensure transparency with regard to the sources of financing of the CTC's activities. In addition, it is important to enhance cooperation with the Al Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee, in accordance with the CTC's work programme for the twelfth 90-day period — the third quarter of this year. We hope that the CTED will establish a strong working attitude that will further strengthen its cooperative relationship with related organizations such as the Al Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee and concerned Member States.

Although the CTC is going through a transitional period while it establishes the CTED, we would like to see the new organization begin full-scale operations as soon as possible. My Government wishes to cooperate in making that process a success. I would again like to express our appreciation for the dedication shown in this important period by Mr. Konuzin, Ambassador Rupérez, their outstanding staff and the Committee secretariat and experts.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Côte d'Ivoire. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): My delegation joins preceding speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and for the wise initiative of holding this public debate on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

We also express our great appreciation of the clear presentation of the twelfth programme of work by Ambassador Konuzin, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning the combat against terrorism. As well, my delegation sincerely congratulates Ambassador Konuzin on his assumption of the chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and congratulates Ambassador Rupérez on his appointment as head of the Committee's Executive Directorate. We wish them every success in carrying out their new duties.

As we take note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, I shall make a few general points of principle and of a general nature concerning the question under consideration in order to shed light on the practical problems encountered when implementing the decisions taken in the fight against terrorism.

The Council's regular, almost bimonthly holding of public meetings on this agenda item and the ever greater participation of peoples and nations in these discussions clearly testify to a universal reality: terrorist acts have taken their place among the most important, cruellest and most current threats to international peace and security.

The shocks caused by the murder and the attacks against innocent civilians and those, often foreigners, who happen to be using national property, and the impact on every household around the world of the destruction of what we consider to be national patrimony but which is really, after all, the patrimony of all humankind, spare no one, no people or nation on this small planet of ours. Whether those acts take place in Bali, Jakarta, Madrid, Moscow or New Delhi, they strike the body, heart and soul of our humanity, assail our conscience, revolt us, disturb our private and collective tranquillity and undermine the peace of all nations and the security of all.

But our analysis of this disease and the treatment to be prescribed will be right only if we know how to define and characterize this disease and, above all, if we can agree on the description of its symptoms and thoroughly lay bare its causes. The vital need to promote the primacy of multilateralism, legitimate defence and the triumph of the latter demand this. It seems to me that universal agreement on the definition of acts of terrorism is a prerequisite for any collective, concerted and coherent strategy to fight terrorism. A testament to that is the difficulties encountered by the Ad Hoc Committee tasked with drafting an international convention on terrorism and an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. In fact the Committee, almost since its creation pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/210, has been stuck at an impasse on the definition of terrorism and the scope of the future convention.

If our peoples, nations and States fail to show the sufficient political will and active and effective solidarity to reach a happy and prompt conclusion to the negotiations under way on those two conventions essential for reducing the frequency and gravity of terrorist acts — or even completely removing their cruel threat to international peace and security — one hardly need consult a crystal ball to foresee the great difficulty — even impossibility — of the old democracies prospering. Not to advance is to recede. Worse, nascent democracies will die before reaching adolescence — which, one knows, is not the easiest or the most gratifying time.

Terrorists would thus have succeeded in their goal of splitting the international community and, especially, by exacerbating the negative effects of globalization, by violent insurrection by the poor against the rich — sometimes through the unfortunate resort to terrorism.

Moreover, as a number of international situations have indicated, the lack of consensus about basic founding principles of the two future conventions will, for our poor and non-nuclear countries, continue to prolong the painful abuses of authority and the attacks on our sovereignty. When not directly responsible, some of our rich partners will be complicit in that. I am referring to State terrorism of the kind imposed upon us by virtue of the liberties that some powerful and so-called democratic States have taken with multilateral provisions painstakingly arrived at, including the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Ottawa Convention on landmines and the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, among others.

We hail the positive strengthening of cooperation between the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al Qaeda and the Taliban and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and we encourage them to continue on that noble course. At the same time, my delegation appeals to all our peoples, nations and States — with the unambiguous and irrepressible sense of solidarity that they share — to quickly overcome the remaining obstacles to the adoption of those two conventions, which remain sadly absent from the list of international legal instruments relating to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

Lastly, as other speakers have done, I would like to emphasize that the fight against terrorism cannot make progress without rigorous respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. We are devoted to those principles and we would like to assure Ambassadors Konuzin and Rupérez of our full willingness to cooperate with the CTC and its Executive Directorate.

That is the modest contribution that my delegation wanted to make to what has been said by all of today's speakers on the pressing subject of threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

The President: I thank the representative of Côte d'Ivoire for his kind words addressed to me.

The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Uzbekistan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Vohidov (Uzbekistan): Allow me, first of all, to express my appreciation to Mr. Konuzin, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and acting Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, for his accomplished report on the activities of the Committee.

We truly welcome the rapid development of practical mechanisms of international cooperation to combat terrorism. Security Council resolution 1535 (2004) has given further important impetus to that effort. In that connection, we welcome the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al Qaeda and the Taliban. We fully support the efforts of those Committees to reinforce the capabilities of United Nations Member States.

In recent years, the Central Asian region, like other parts of the world, has experienced the brutal manifestations of criminal terrorist schemes. The strengthening of the forces of international terrorism, extremism and separatism casts a shadow over the stability of the countries of the region. It is necessary to note that, after a period of decline, international terrorism has now started to galvanize its capacities and to employ much more destructive means. The disturbing reality is that more and more countries and regions are becoming targets for terrorists.

In view of that fact, I would like to stress several important factors in countering the threat of terrorism. First, counter-terrorism is not only a fight against terrorist acts and their perpetrators. It is first necessary to combat the numerous radical and extremist centres that create and disseminate the ideology of hatred. Those centres are designed to poison people's minds and to recruit new zombies to fill the terrorists' ranks, primarily among young people.

In that connection, I would like to draw the Council's attention to a very serious threat, not only to the stability of Central Asia but to that of the entire world, that is emanating from the religious-extremist organization Hizb ut-Tahrir. In dealing with organizations of this kind it is essential to take into account the fact that peaceful extremist movements do not exist at all. By their very nature, they are filled with a sense of hatred and intolerance that eventually turns into violence. In that regard, our call is for the Security Council and the Counter-Terrorism Committee to give more serious attention to the danger of religious-extremist organizations, including Hizb ut-Tahrir, and to undertake determined measures by applying strict sanctions against them.

Secondly, it is no secret that international terrorist organizations are trying to gain access to components of weapons of mass destruction. In the last three years alone, Uzbekistan's law-enforcement bodies have confiscated 15 containers of radioactive materials as they made their way across our country. We consider resolving the issue of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to be a vital element of our foreign policy and an essential part of regional and global security. In that context, realizing the initiative to create a nuclear-free-zone in Central Asia is in the interest not only of the region but of the entire world community.

Thirdly, the illicit flow of narcotics has become one of the main sources of financing for terrorist structures. To ensure safe corridors and good markets for their commodities, narco-syndicates are entering into alliances with destructive forces whose terrorist acts create favourable conditions for the narcotics business, as they destabilize situations in different parts of the world. Having realized that danger, Uzbekistan has taken the initiative to establish a regional information and coordination centre in Central Asia to combat trans-border crime connected with the illegal flow of narcotics. That initiative was supported by the Secretary-General, and we hope that many members of the Council will offer their kind assistance in realizing this plan.

My fourth point is that positive results in the fight against international terrorism can be attained only through a solid global system of counteraction with the United Nations at its centre. The principle of indivisibility demands a more active and increased role by regional organizations in the process. In that

connection, we attach great importance to the recently established regional counter-terrorism structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which is based in Tashkent, which will coordinate the interaction of SCO member States with a view to combating terrorism, separatism and extremism.

In our view, establishing contact mechanisms between the regional counter-terrorism structure of the SCO, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) would play a considerable role towards consolidating international efforts to combat new challenges. We are of the belief that taking into account the points I have outlined would contribute to the effective realization of the international counter-terrorism strategy.

We would like to note that, over many years, Uzbekistan has continuously appealed to the international community to consolidate common efforts in the fight against terrorism. The work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee reflects our vision for tackling this problem. The Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council has made significant progress in its work and is no doubt an effective mechanism for coordinating the international efforts against terrorism.

The Government of Uzbekistan welcomes the programme of work of the Committee for the coming 90-day period. The recommendations and provisions reflected in the programme will no doubt contribute to further strengthening the cooperation between the Committee and member countries to combat terrorism. In particular, I would like to stress the importance of the development of the work of assessing countries' needs for technical assistance. The Counter-Terrorism Committee's experts will play an important role to that effect by visiting those countries.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Kazakhstan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Kazykhanov (Kazakhstan) (*spoke in Russian*): I am honoured to address the Security Council today on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in order to lay out the common position of the States members of that international regional organization: the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

I wish at the outset to echo the words of high commendation and gratitude addressed to the former Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), Ambassador Arias, and to his successor in that post, the acting Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, Mr. Alexander Konuzin, for the dynamic and multifaceted work being done by the CTC at this crucial stage of its reform.

International terrorism remains a primary and constant threat to security and stability throughout the world. Countering it requires the consolidation and coordination of global efforts. The countries of the CSTO intend to make an important contribution to strengthening the anti-terrorist coalition and to regional and international security on the basis of the generally recognized norms and principles of international law, with the lead coordinating role being played by the United Nations. In that connection, the CSTO supports the strengthening and revitalization of the CTC's work, pursuant to the provisions of resolution 1535 (2004).

In our unanimous view, the report introduced today by the Chairman of the CTC on the Committee's work over the past three months and its programme of work for the coming 90-day period confirm the fact that the process of reforming the CTC is gaining ground and moving in the right direction. The main task in that context remains the effective monitoring of the implementation by member States of resolution 1373 (2001). It is crucial in that respect that the Committee seek more actively to develop new approaches to coordinating technical assistance to States while closely linking it to the strengthening of interaction with international and regional organizations.

We express our support for the work already under way to prepare countries' technical needs assessments and to organize CTC field missions to interested countries, with their consent. Such work should enhance direct dialogue and cooperation between the CTC and States with the aim of ensuring fuller and more effective implementation of the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001) and that the provision of technical assistance will be as targeted as possible and accurately reflect the requests and needs of States. We are convinced that the participation of the appropriate international organizations in such

missions will help the task at hand to succeed. For its part, the CSTO is prepared to consider the possibility of participating in that work in the context of developing interaction and cooperation with the CTC.

In the context of combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the States members of the CSTO support the measures set forth in resolution 1540 (2004). Members of the CSTO are at the forefront of the struggle against international terrorism and are particularly sensitive to the magnitude of that threat. Our desire to pool efforts so as effectively to counter new threats and challenges — in particular those posed by terrorism, extremism, the traffic in illegal drugs and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction — is becoming an increasingly significant factor in deepening the integration processes within the organization.

Recently, much has been done on a practical level to increase the operation of the political instruments available to our organization. Its member States have already taken steps to implement planned measures to combat the external drug threat. Recommendations have been drafted to unify counter-terrorism legislation. Work has been finalized to establish a joint rapid-deployment force that will help to meet the common security challenges faced by our CSTO partners. The policy of reviving efforts to resolve new challenges in the area of international security through close interaction with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations — including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — was further reaffirmed in the political statement issued by the States members of the CSTO adopted at their meeting of 18 June in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

We believe that such interaction should be mutually complementary. One important practical outcome of that meeting was the adoption of guidelines regarding priority areas for the organization's activities in 2004 and 2005, including measures to increase cooperation in countering international terrorism, militant extremism and the illegal distribution of drugs, taking national interests into account.

We hope that, in the light of such challenges, the CTC will in the near future propose effective mechanisms for the exchange of information, for disseminating the most recent experiences and for organizing technical assistance in the context of coordinating the practical counter-terrorism efforts of international organizations.

The President: I give the floor to Mr. Alexander Konuzin to respond to questions posed and comments made.

Mr. Konuzin (*spoke in Russian*): I should like at the outset sincerely to thank all of those who spoke today in support of the report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and also for the kind words they addressed to me. I am grateful for the ideas, comments and assessments expressed in this Chamber. I thank them also for the criticism, which is very useful to us, so that the work of the CTC does not become routine.

As has been noted today, the destruction caused by terrorist activities is constantly increasing. Today, in the city of Voronezh, in Central Russia, a terrorist act was committed, killing one woman and wounding several other people. There can be no idea of routine in the combat against terrorism. Russia, as Chairman of the Committee, will not allow that to happen.

All statements made today will be taken into consideration in the CTC. All of the points that were made will be taken into account in our work.

I should now like to touch briefly on some of the points made today.

We fully agree with the points made regarding the need to revitalize the work of the CTC, primarily through reform. That will be our top priority. However, I should like to assure members of the Security Council that in carrying out such reform, the CTC will not halt its ongoing activities and will continue to use the instruments it has at its disposal in discharging the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council.

I would take note here of a point that was made by many speakers — that is, concern about the fact that many States have not yet become parties to Conventions relating to counter-terrorism. I would note in that connection the view that was expressed that perhaps many States require technical assistance in order to become parties to those Conventions, and we will take that point into account in the work of the CTC.

A useful view was expressed here that reports should be received not just from individual States but from regional organizations as well. I am delighted by

the fact that many of those who spoke today supported the idea of dispatching CTC missions to one country with the consent of that country. We are now working on this question in a specific manner, and we hope that in time such a trip can be made.

One last point: many statements stressed the importance of assessing the technical needs of States in order to help them comply with resolution 1373 (2001) and then to find an opportunity to provide them with assistance commensurate with their needs. That is an important area of the activities of the CTC, and, in that connection, I would appeal to all States Members of the United Nations not to wait to appeal to the CTC if they have a specific request or certain preferences in areas where they are experiencing a need for technical assistance. They should come to the CTC. Donor countries come to us and ask us what kind of assistance is needed by States, and they are prepared to make such assistance available.

The CTC is prepared to serve as a middleman in establishing cooperation between donors and those who need assistance.

The President: I thank Ambassador Konuzin for the clarifications he has provided.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the briefing by the Chairman of the CTC on the work of the Committee.

"The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

"The Security Council recalls the statement by its President on 16 October 2003 (S/PRST/2003/17) and resolution 1535 (2004), which indicated the Council's intention to review the structure and activities of the CTC.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation for Ambassador Inocencio Arias' (Spain) activity as Chairman of the CTC and also expresses its confidence that the new Chairman, supported by the new Bureau of the Committee, will continue the effective coordination of the CTC in the global fight against terrorism under the aegis of the United Nations, by monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

"The Security Council invites the CTC to pursue its agenda as set out in the work programme for the CTC's twelfth 90-day period (S/2004/541) focusing on practical measures to implement resolution 1535 (2004) on the revitalization of the Committee, including by considering the organizational plan for the newly established Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate.

"The Security Council notes the importance of continuing the CTC's efforts aimed at increasing the capabilities of Member States to combat terrorism; to identify and address the problems faced by States in implementing resolution 1373 (2001); to facilitate the provision of technical assistance adjusted to the countries' needs; to encourage the largest possible number of States to become parties to the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism, and to strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations acting in the areas outlined by resolution 1373 (2001).

"The Security Council invites the CTC to accelerate its work on country assessments of assistance needs that can be shared with interested donor States and organizations and welcomes the initiation of preparations for the first visit by the CTC to a Member State with its consent in order to enhance the monitoring of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), focusing in particular on the assistance that might be available to address States' needs.

"The Security Council notes that, as of 30 June 2004, 71 States had not met the deadline for submission of their respective reports to the CTC as set out in resolution 1373 (2001). It calls on them urgently to do so, in order to maintain the universality of response which resolution 1373 (2001) requires.

"The Security Council invites the CTC to continue reporting on its activities at regular intervals and expresses its intention to review the structure and activities of the CTC in October 2004."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2004/26.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.